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Councillor's call to suspend hospital consultation

A PUBLIC consultation on plans to permanently close Maesteg Day Hospital should be suspended until a new health board takes over the Bridgend area, a county councillor has said.

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) Health Board is currently undertaking a consultation over proposals to transfer the day service to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

ABMU says the closure would not affect any other services at the hospital and in fact has plans to increase services on site.

Ross Thomas, Maesteg West county councillor, says no decision should be made until Cwm Taf University Health Board takes over health services in Bridgend county in April 2019.

Calling the public engagement "fundamentally flawed", he said: "It makes me feel uncomfortable that a decision of this magnitude is being taken by a health board that will no longer be operational in the local area in five months' time."

"While our current health board has a vast overspend of its budget, the new one is in a much better financial

position."

He added: "Many people are worried that losing the day hospital function will be the thin end of the wedge."

"The extra services planned are to be warmly welcomed but they should not be at the expense of the day hospital function."

"I believe there is capacity for both."

The day service function at the hospital, which has a consultant and nurse practitioner sessions, has actually been closed since November 2017, when the health board decided to close it temporarily after not having enough nurses to staff the hospital's inpatient ward.

Nurses from the day hospital were used to staff the inpatient ward until it had recruited more.

ABMU said it had planned to reopen the day hospital early in 2018 but due to "further staff changes in key areas" it has remained closed.

The health board has said, when open, it was only operating at around 50 per cent capacity, receiving just 20 referrals of patients each month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The festive spirit left undampened by rain during Maesteg carnival



See more pictures from PHIL DAVIES on page 6.

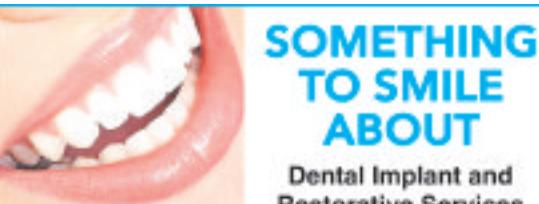
'Have your say on new property planning consultations' urges Bridgend councillor
FULL STORY ON PAGE 4

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BCBC says 'record numbers' responded to budget debate

RESPONSES to Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) budget consultation hit a record high this year with more than 2,600 people completing surveys.

The 'Shaping Bridgend's Future' consultation closed on November 18 and asked residents questions such as how much extra council tax they would be willing to pay, which services should be cut, and which should be protected in the local authority's budget for next year.

Speaking at a recent full council meeting, BCBC deputy leader and cabinet member for resources Hywel Williams said: "The consultation was designed so that there can be no misunderstandings over the seriousness of the situation or what the effect of inevitable budget cuts will be."

"A full analysis of the feedback and comments that we have received is currently under way and this will form the basis of a report to cabinet next month."

The consultation recorded the council's highest levels of engagement and participation with 2,677 completed surveys returned, compared to 1,858 last year.

The council said it also saw a 102-per-cent increase in people taking part

in engagement sessions, which included workshops and roadshow events, with 5,288 people involved this year compared to 2,619 people last year.

The GEM understands that BCBC officers have attended a number of meetings, including with various local groups as part of this engagement exercise.

At the meeting on Wednesday, November 21, Cllr Williams said: "With the consultation available in a range of accessible formats, we undertook a full publicity programme, organised a series of public engagement stands at key locations around the county, and carried out a social media debate on Twitter and Facebook.

"We also held a series of very productive budget workshops at secondary schools and primary schools."

"This contributed towards our engagement with younger people aged between 11 and 25 and also encouraged them to become more involved in the democratic process.

"The consultation views will now be used to help inform our decision-making on the budget for 2019-20."

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

Coity community council installs new speed warning signs

IN 2017 Coity Higher Community Council in Bridgend developed a community access plan which analysed how residents travelled from home to places in their daily lives such as schools, health care facilities, shops and places of recreation.

Through consultation with residents and other stakeholders along with site surveys, 'hot spots' were identified where there were particular concerns.

One of the recurring issues that arose was the need for speed actuated reminder signs on some of the busier roads in the council's wards. The community council sought external funding to install the signs on three roads, one in each ward of Coity, Litchard and Pendre.



Cllr Martin Williams,
next to the sign
on Litchard Hill,
Bridgend.

Unfortunately, on this occasion they were unable to secure funding. However, following a careful review of their budget, the community council committed to the installation of the signs at a cost of £14,000.

A council spokesperson said: "All three signs have now been installed on Litchard Terrace, Litchard Hill and the bypass outside Trem y Castell in Coity; they

Ann C Harris

have had an immediate impact, proving effective in slowing the traffic at these busy locations."

Cllr Martin Williams, chair of the council said: "Our community access plan was developed in consultation with residents and is a cornerstone of the community council's current and future plans."

"The council is committed to delivering the plan, whether through partnership with others and external funding or, as in this case, where necessary and our budget allows, we will deliver ourselves."

He continued: "We have also been working closely with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) on a comprehensive funding submission to the Welsh Government for a network of safe routes to our two primary schools".

Hansh, which means a 'bite' or 'mouthful', targets the 16-34 age group

Cosmology Corner: the incredible journey

POPULAR at this time of year and loosely based on a book of the same name by Scottish author Sheila Burnford, *The Incredible Journey* is a 1963 Walt Disney film which recounts the story of three pets, a Labrador, a Bull terrier and a Siamese cat, as they travel 300 miles through the Ontario wilderness in search of their masters.

Regular readers will know that I often take inspiration for these articles from topical sources, and thinking of this Christmas film, I was reminded that our entire existence comes about from the energy that comes from our Sun – and of the very arduous journey that its light and warmth take before finally reaching us here on Earth.

I've previously written that if the Sun were to suddenly switch off, we wouldn't know anything about it for just over eight minutes – the time the radiation we sense takes to travel the 93 million miles from the surface of the Sun to the Earth.

Sounds straightforward? Well yes, but those eight minutes are just the very final, and infinitesimal part of what is actually a million year journey.

The nuclear fusion reactions which occur at the core of the Sun convert five million tons of hydrogen every single second into helium, releasing the equivalent energy of 100 million hydrogen bombs in that same brief moment.

The Sun is an enormous ball of hydrogen, so big that the intense gravitational pressure at its core strips the electrons from the hydrogen atoms. The normal repulsive force between the remaining positively charged protons is then overcome as this same pressure crushes them together so that they collide with one another.

There are something like a quadrillion of these collisions every second, and, fortunately for us, for the great majority of them, nothing happens otherwise the Sun's lifetime would fall very far short of its predicted 10 billion years.

Maesteg journalist hopes to bring 'bite-sized' news to younger people

HANS, S4C's online short form service, has now added journalistic bite to its provision.

Dan Sylw will give a bite-size platform for younger journalists to tackle the issues and stories that affect young people in Wales.

Dan Sylw is a scheme which gives new journalists in the Welsh language on-the-job training and the skills needed to produce regular shortform current affairs content.

Hansh, which means a 'bite' or 'mouthful', targets the 16-34 age group

Just occasionally, however, the velocity of a collision is so high that the two protons fuse together to form a helium atom, releasing energy in the form of very high energy gamma ray photons – a million times more energetic than a photon of visible light. These gamma ray photons travel at the speed of light and they all head for the Sun's surface, some 400,000 miles distant from the core.

We are used to thinking of light travelling in straight lines and if this was the case, it would take these gamma rays just 2.3 seconds to get there, and the Earth would be fried some eight minutes later in the constant wash of this hard radiation.

Something, however, prevents this from happening and that 2.3 second journey to the surface actually takes upwards of a million years.

So, when we look at the Sun, we are actually seeing photons which were generated at its core a million years ago, well before our ancestors left the African plains.

So what is it that turns 2.3 seconds into a million years? The gravitational pressure at the core of the Sun and the Radiation Zone which surrounds it for three quarters of the distance to the surface is so high that the protons and helium nuclei have a density similar to that of lead.

An emitted gamma ray can't get far through this high density plasma before it crashes into a proton and gets absorbed and then re-emitted in a different direction.

And so it goes on; the individual photons bounce around from collision to collision, millions of times in a kind of photon random walk, losing a little energy every time until they eventually become X-rays.

Further energy losses occur in the outer, Convection Layer of the Sun, until they finally reach and escape the Sun's surface as photons of visible light and the infra-red rays which warm our planet.

I'm off to Ontario where it's cooler and a little less chaotic.

NORMAN LLOYD

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Bridgend Foot Clinic, 5 Nolton Street, Bridgend, CF31 1BX

Bridgend Masonic Lodge, Coyerch Road, Bridgend, CF31 2AP

Bridgend Office Furniture, Tower House, Tower Close, Bridgend, CF31 3TH

Brynteg Comprehensive School, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF31 3ER

Mrs Ann Harrison-Power, Channel View, Cwmbreni, Coity, Bridgend, CF35 6BT

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 201 New Rd, Porthcawl, CF36 5BN

Porthcawl Masonic Lodge, Masonic Hall, New Rd, Porthcawl, CF36 5DG

Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Waun-y-mer Kenfig, Bridgend, CF33 4PU

Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl, CF33 4RP

Bridgend Mercedes Benz, Old Field Road, Pencoed, CF35 5LJ

Smyrna Baptist Chapel, Vestry (Hall) Heol Eglwys, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4LY

Information supplied www.welshhearts.org.

Porthcawl Lions' Club donation

THE GEM has been asked to clarify an area of possible confusion in last week's Porthcawl Lions Club report.

It was correctly reported that the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion received £1,514 from the Lions.

This money was raised as a result of a number of street collections which were generously supported by the public. It was not a donation from club funds.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 13)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
06 Thur	05.34	9.6	17.55	9.8
07 Fri	06.15	9.7	18.35	9.6
08 Sat	06.55	9.7	19.12	9.7
09 Sun	07.31	9.6	19.48	9.5
10 Mon	08.04	9.4	20.22	9.3
11 Tues	08.39	9.2	20.56	9.0
12 Wed	09.15	8.9	21.31	8.7
13 Thur	09.54	8.5	22.10	8.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call Gareth Jamieson on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG

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Man jailed for grooming

A BRIDGEND man has been jailed for four years for attempting to meet a child after grooming.

Michael Munday, aged 33, was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Cardiff Crown Court on November 28.

He previously pleaded guilty to two counts of attempting to meet a girl under 16 years of age following grooming and two counts of attempting to arrange the commission of a child sex offence.

Two of the charges relate to offences in the South Wales Police force area and two charges in the North Wales Police area.

The defendant was arrested at Cardiff Central Railway Station on July 1, 2018, as a result of having made arrangements via social media and on WhatsApp messenger to meet what he believed was a 14-year-old girl.

The judge also made Munday the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order and ordered him to sign the sex offender register for life.

Detective Constable Chris Cole, officer in the case, said: "Officers covering Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan will continue to work

tirelessly to protect children and bring perpetrators to justice.

"If you have any information or concerns about online grooming then please report them to us so we can act. You can report it to police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

"If you think a child is at immediate risk of harm call 999."

South Wales Police



Michael Munday.



Employees of Wales & West Utilities teamed up with Keep Wales Tidy at the event and collected 17 bags of rubbish in two hours.

Utility staff on litter pick after Porthcawl pipework

EMPLOYEES from Wales & West Utilities have been out in force in Porthcawl, undertaking a litter pick across the town.

The employees from the company teamed up with Keep Wales Tidy to organise the event in which more than 17 bags of rubbish were collected in a two-hour period.

The event, which centred on the beach and in New Road, was undertaken as part of what a company spokesperson called "...its commitment to give back to the communities in which it

works".

Elaina Cook of the company, who led the event, said: "We were delighted to run the litter pick event in Porthcawl.

"We had a fantastic response in our call for volunteers and are delighted to have collected so much litter in a small amount of time.

We hope those who live in and visit the area will benefit from a cleaner town."

Wales & West Utilities has been working in Porthcawl to complete a gas pipe upgrade scheme for the area

Elaina added: "We know our

gas pipe upgrade work can sometimes be disruptive and we wanted to do something to give back to further benefit the local area.

We are happy to have lent a helping hand to the people of Porthcawl."

Chris Partridge of Keep Wales Tidy said: "It is great that the company came out to help improve the local environment with this litter pick. It is also wonderful that they have chosen to support Keep Wales Tidy's charitable aims."

AS

Bridgend rambles for December

BRIDGEND Ramblers have a varied series of walks taking us through the festive season and on to the New Year, so why not come along and get yourself fitter for the

challenges around Christmas.

We've got our full programme of three Sunday walks, a Tuesday walk and alternating Wednesday and Thursday walks.

This month we walk at Blaengarw, Mumbles, Porthcawl,

Portobello, Hensol, Ystradfellte, Nash Point, Afan, Argae, Merthyr Mawr, Bettws, Penarth, Cardiff, Brecon Beacons, Colwinston, Litchard, Southerndown and Pontyclun. Variety is the spice of life.

Allan Morgan

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Carol concert
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'Have your say on new property planning consultations' urges Bridgend councillor

RESIDENTS in the Newcastle ward in Bridgend have been invited to comment on two new planning applications for developments in the town centre ward, a local councillor has advised.

Cllr Carolyn Webster, the Conservative councillor for Newcastle Ward, said: "As a part of the planning process, Asbri Planning has submitted documents for residents to make any observations about the proposed Persimmon Homes development of 159 new properties on the site of the former Ysgol Bryn Castell."

She added that a Mr P Evans of Swansea has presented to the public the pre-application pack for residents to make any observations about a proposal for 24 new properties on land north of Pascoes Avenue, fronting onto Tondu Road.

Cllr Webster said: "While I welcome the development of brownfield sites, I would urge all residents to have their say about these proposals."

"These plans are in addition to the proposed Sunnyside Development in Newcastle ward,

which together with housing includes a medical centre.

"We are seeing plans come through for a lot of new housing in a ward which I am concerned to note contains an area which sees the worst air pollution in Bridgend Borough."

The consultation documents are available for residents to view online for the Asbri Planning application www.asbriplanning.co.uk/statutory-pre-application-consultation/former-bryn-castell-school-llangewydd-road-bridget/?fbclid=IwAR314Rgv-eBHjAuLraH5y1mzDM4EcU3kwmMCC0u7nA4t1VMRQIASHzOj-JU.

Both Asbri and Mr Evans' packs are available to view in Bridgend Library, situated in the Halo Life Centre, Bridgend.

Cllr Webster said: "Should any residents wish to speak with me about this or any other matter, please contact me on 07743574786 or email cllr.carolyn.webster@bridgend.gov.uk."



An architect's impression of the 159 properties on the site of the former Ysgol Bryn Castell.

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It said new services which would be established in the space previously

used by the day hospital could include a 'leg club', where patients with leg wounds can socialise together while being treated, an ultrasound service for people with chronic wounds, and an expansion of the catheter clinic.

The public engagement exercise which started on October 29 runs until December 21.

It has included a couple of drop-in events and a public meeting in Maesteg Town Hall earlier this month (November).

The final drop-in event is on Tuesday, December 4, at Maesteg Leisure Centre.

It runs from 9am to 5pm and members of the health board will be there to answer people's questions about the plans.

The Maesteg Hospital League of Friends has said it "strongly disagrees" with the proposal to permanently close the day hospital saying it will result in transport difficulties for the elderly and frail members of the community who rely on public transport.

ABMU admits permanently closing the day hospital would result in transport problems for people from Maesteg.

It said benefits include quicker access to assessments and a wider range of skills available to support patients and opportunity to develop new services at Maesteg Hospital to support people with chronic conditions.

The consultation document states: "While we recognise the difficulties which may be faced by some due to the longer travel distance involved, the majority of people travelling to the medical day unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital from Maesteg and the surrounding areas use non-emergency ambulance transport and this will still be available to them."

"Other patients use their own or a family member's transport and they will be able to reclaim mileage if they are on any of the recognised benefits under the 'help with health costs' scheme."

ABMU said that there is "no intention" at present to move or change any other services at Maesteg Hospital, highlighting new services that have been introduced in recent months such as a wound clinic and a catheter clinic.

It said new services which would be established in the space previously

Liz Bradford
Local democracy reporter

One arrest made after 'industrial-scale' cannabis factory raided in Bridgend

A LARGE cannabis factory was raided on Tuesday, December 4 by officers in Bridgend town centre.

The "industrial-scale" factory which contained around 595 cannabis plants was found at an address in Wyndham Street.

Officers seized the plants and growing equipment which covered three floors of the building.

A 25-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of production of a class B drug and is in custody. He is believed to be a foreign national.

The warrant was executed yesterday afternoon as part of Operation Avalanche - a co-ordinated force-wide operation to tackle criminality in communities across South Wales.

Detective Inspector Dean Taylor said: "This action is as a result of

information received from members of the public and our partners in the business community. The operation involved officers from the neighbourhood policing teams, organised crime unit and the territorial support team.

"We will take robust action to target and dismantle organised crime groups involved in the supply and distribution of illicit drugs across Bridgend and the Vale. This activity to stamp out the supply of drugs in our communities will continue.

"I would like to say thank-you to our communities who provide information to us and would urge you to keep telling us about your concerns involving drug dealing so that we can act upon them."

If you have any information you can report it to us on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. South Wales Police

Call to suspend consultation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It said reopening the day service function would mean consultants would have to come from the Princess of Wales Hospital, which would reduce the service for the wider population of Bridgend.

The public consultation document states: "The relatively low level of demand from Maesteg and the surrounding area and the greater range of skills at the Princess of Wales Hospital's medical day unit mean that we believe it is more appropriate and a better use of resources to provide these services in future from the Princess of Wales Hospital for the whole county rather than in Bridgend and Maesteg."

It says around £110,000 will be saved from the permanent closure of the day hospital.

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Top: Cadet Ramneet Chaudry, Cadet Harleen Chaudry; bottom: Cadet Keiron Ferguson, Cadet Sergeant Patricia Davies.

Kenfig Hill Cadets take to the sky

RECENTLY, Cadet Sergeant Patricia Davies along with Cadets Harleen Chaudry, Ramneet Chaudry and Keiron Ferguson went to MoD St Athan for air experience flying with No1 AEF Squadron.

Upon arrival they were given the pre-flight safety video and then each cadet had to satisfy the instructor that they understood the safety implications by demonstrating the emergency escape procedure. Safety is of high importance and is always instructed.

Around 2pm the weather cleared and Cadet Harleen Chaudry was kitted out for her first flight. Her brother Cadet Ramneet Chaudry was next for his first flight, followed by the two remaining cadets.

A first flight certificate was awarded to Cadet Chaudry. The remaining cadets were putting flying hours towards their bronze wings.

On the weekend, four cadets attended 634 Aviation Ground School at MoD St Athan to complete the ground based training on the flight simulator as part of their flying syllabus. Having flown earlier in the week, Cadet Chaudry qualified for her blue wings and Cadets Ferguson and Corporal Luke Russell received their bronze wings. Cadet Owain Pugh completed the ground bronze training but will have to wait until his next flight to obtain his bronze wings.

Flight Sergeant Richard Peckham RAFAC would like to thank all staff involved this week in making it possible for the cadets to achieve their goals.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us -
email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
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Supermarket customers help to raise money for after-school club



THE staff and board members of Porthcawl YMCA have thanked staff and customers of their local Co-Op after raising £9813.33 for the refurbishment of its after school club.

Any surplus once this project is complete will be used on other

Wick YFC shines at eisteddfod

THE Wales YFC Eisteddfod finals were hosted by the Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers this year in Memo Arts Centre, Barry.

There was an incredible array of talent from within the 12 counties of the federation and what a fantastic success it proved, with scouts from *Britain's Got Talent* in attendance throughout the day highly impressed with the expertise and dexterity within the Young Farmers movement.

The day ran like clockwork and was an absolute credit to both Wales YFC and Glamorgan YFC. The eisteddfod chair was designed and created by our very own Tom Edwards, recently elected as club leader following incredible success as a member of Wick YFC for the last 15 years.

I caught up with Tom who was extremely honoured to undertake the project, igniting a plethora of ideas from which to work. He took around 45 hours to complete the task and told me: "I was going to

use local ash but the grain in the piece of elm was so awesome I couldn't not use it."

Looking at the finished article, we can see why. The detail was incredible, the seat itself carved with a map of Glamorgan and the back with the three feathers, Wales YFC Eisteddfod and Glamorgan detail. It was an absolute work of art by a talented craftsman. Tom told me his only real difficulty was getting to the venue in Barry, as he got lost in Barry three times in the height of rush hour.

We also enjoyed individual successes on the day from our junior members with Alisha Major gaining third in the Club Promotion Leaflet competition and our dance team

consisting of Lauren James (10), Hollie Jones (13), her sister Rhianna (11), Lucy Roberts (15) and her sister Bel (11) coming fourth. Despite their young ages, the girls choreographed their entire routine on their own with Lauren as head choreographer assisted by Hollie and Rhianna. The routine, a delightful contemporary dance was set to 'Skinny Love' by Birdy and told the story of the girls alone and isolated



at the start of the routine but coming together to work as one as the dance progressed.

The story was very apt to us as a club, as it's very much how Wick YFC orchestrates with members supporting each other and pulling together as a unit. The girls competed against many 26-year-olds and were delighted to achieve fourth place in what proved to be a night on professional contest. The talent within the routines was absolutely incredible. Lucy Roberts also competed in the under-18 Recitation of Dylan Thomas' *The Hunchback in the Park*, which she did with pure

perfection, and was pitch perfect, gaining a very worthy and credible 80 marks finishing just outside the top three. Very well done, Lucy.

Acknowledgements of Wick's efforts came from Laura Elliott, vice-chair of the National Federation of Young Farmers who said: "Thank you for your help and well done to the Wick YFC members representing Glamorgan so well in their competitions." This meant so much to us, given Laura is one of the most successful former members of the Glamorgan Federation and has gone on to represent the Young

Farmers movement so successfully with such professionalism at national level.

Menna Davies, compere at the eisteddfod, also congratulated the Wick team: "Well done, Wick, for representing Glamorgan so well at the eisteddfod. Can I also thank all the sterling work that was evident by your members and all county stewards who worked behind the scenes and front of house that definitely helped to create a professional image for Glamorgan YFC." Comments such as these make all the hard work and effort so worthwhile and we are humbled to receive such acknowledgement.

For more information on joining our club, see our website on www.wickyfc.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. We are happy to welcome any new members between the ages of 10 and 26 and be assured you don't have to wear wellies or drive a tractor to join Young Farmers. Our competitions also include literacy, cooking, craft, and carpentry to name a few. Alisha Major

improvements to the building and facilities.

In the picture are Brian Freeman (Senior Playworker), Jane Fielding (Centre Manager), John Berry (President of Porthcawl YMCA), Les Tallon-Morris (Board Member) and Mark Jones (Manager of Co-Op).

JF

Local group ho-ho-holds Christmas fair

Coytrahen Community Association held its Christmas fair on December 1. There were many stalls including a selection of jewellery and crafts, food, jams and honey and wooden decorations. There was also a stall for the Sandvile self-help Foundation and for the children, a visit from Father Christmas. Photograph by Ian Frith



Bridgend Quiz League teasers

HERE are this week's teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League:

1. The algae Spirulina is used to dye food which colour?
2. Which book series has lead to an increase in Asia's illegal owl trade?
3. The average adult body contains 100,000 miles of what?

SK

Answers:
1. Blue.
2. Party plates.
3. Blood vessels.

Pupils quiz local MP



Helen Hier (left) with Madeleine Moon MP, and pupils.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited St Clare's School, Porthcawl, recently to meet headteacher Helen Hier and to speak to the sixth form about STEM careers in engineering and IT, particularly cyber defence.

Mrs Moon was met on arrival by Helen Hier, head boy Sam Chumley and head girl Kate Layland and had a tour of the sixth form centre.

The MP addressed a whole senior school assembly which was followed by a question and answer session with the sixth form and senior MAT pupils.

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No dreaming of a wet Christmas as Maesteg defies weather to welcome the festive season



MAESTEG Christmas carnival took place on Saturday, December 1, with people undeterred despite the heavy rain.

The festive celebrations began with a craft show in the town hall and a Christmas blessing outside the council offices.

Then, after luncheon, the floats were prepared and the procession made its way through the town to the delight of the many people lining the streets.



'Inconsiderate bikers are destroying sand dunes'

READ with interest the article about the amount of money being spent on the sand dunes of Newton and Kenfig.

I wonder how many of your readers have visited the nature reserve at Kenfig recently. Go there on most days of the week, but particularly at the weekend, and you will be greeted by the noise of off-road motorbikes tearing up the fragile dune system.

If you happen to be walking the coastal path between Sker and Margam, you will be pushed to one

side as they tear past at great speed with no consideration to anyone walking.

I wonder who would be responsible if an accident occurred between a member of the public and one of these bikes?

This area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and is being destroyed by these mindless bikers, so why spend tens of thousands of pounds trying to preserve the dunes? Name and address supplied.

IMAGES by PHIL DAVIES



KPC supporter Andrew Singer, BCBC Leader Cllr Huw David and Cllr John McCarthy and Mayoress Judy meet Santa.

KPC celebrates 20 years' work in the community



ABOVE: Singers from Cynffig Comprehensive.

KPC, based in Pyle, celebrated 20 years since its doors first opened on November 28, 1998 with a celebration at the centre to mark 20 years of supporting young people and the area.

KPC was originally set up in 1998 by Helena Parobij, along with other supporters.

The charity has grown over the years and although its original remit was to support young people, and give them alternatives to hanging out on the streets – anti-social behaviour, substance misuse – the charity has expanded to also support adults who are unemployed to help with their employability skills and also through various well-being programmes, such as the Rebound sessions.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough (Cllr John McCarthy) and his wife Judy opened the celebrations, along with chair of KPC Paula Lunnon, with some great entertainment by Cynffig Comprehensive School pupils performing an early



taster of their forthcoming Elf show, and music provided by Phil Jones, Ed Rees and friends.

Alongside the celebrations KPC ran a Christmas fair and had an early visit from Santa.

The evening was a tribute to Helena's vision, and past members and supporters who attended were able to reminisce over old photos, good times and fun at KPC over the years: trips out, and fundraising.

Alison Mawby
Project Development Manager



Ed Rees.

Careers Wales and XR Training work with Bridgend car workshop



THERE were two developments in Bridgend's post-16 education, training, and employment landscape – both featuring the same award-winning local auto workshop – last month.

Avia Autos, on Bridgend Industrial Estate, is no stranger to the concept of work experience having been recognised previously for its efforts to showcase careers in the automotive aftermarket, focusing on the independent sector.

What made November different has been the change in gear and approach by providing an open forum style event inviting groups of young people to the workshop, a project led by Michael Hasberry of Careers Wales.

He said: "These visits are not only beneficial to students but to Careers Advisors as well who can then pass information on to even more students."

The second role Avia has accepted is the

continuing provision of work experience for XR Training in Pyle, which will be for candidates who have already left school and are working towards a foundation level qualification.

Rob Williams of XR Training is tasked with finding the right fit for his learners and thought Abbie would have opportunity at Avia, due to the established diversity policy, that is sometimes difficult to find in the industry.

In October, Hayley Pells of Avia Autos was presented with the Exemplar Employer Award from Chwarae Teg. The garage, which has a 50:50 gender split of men and women in qualified technical roles, has been recognised for its work in bringing equality to the motor industry.

It was the first garage in Wales to receive the award.

For more information, visit www.careerswales.com.

Yule certainly be amused...



What's on and news in brief

Porthcawl Community Singers

THE Singers will present 'A Christmas Mass' by Ronald Corp in All Saints' Church Porthcawl on Saturday, December 15 at 7pm.

They will also sing miscellaneous seasonal pieces and the accompanist is Sheila Miles, guest soloist Meinir Davies, and musical director Angharad Edwards will accompany on the harp.

Mince pies and wine will be available during the interval. Tickets (£6) available from the singers or at the door.

Carol concert

THE mid-Glamorgan Mixed Choir will present a Carol Concert at Soar Chapel, Rhieceilog on Thursday, December 13 at 7pm. A collection will be taken.

Is Vic there? Her Majesty Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India – or rather a fairly good lookalike – paid a visit to Bridgend.

THE Victorian Christmas event in Bridgend on December 1, organised by the town council, took place in less than festive conditions, but did attract royalty in the form of Queen Victoria, or at least a passable pretender to the throne.

Stalls in Wyndham Street gave demonstrations of how life – the more pleasant aspects of it – was during the era, with many people dressed in period costume adding to the street scene.

A spokesperson said town council organisers were "delighted" with the event, and thanked all those taking part.

December 1918 – the Great War is over and life begins to return to normality in Porthcawl... Local history by Ceri Joseph

Hutchinsons, on right.



This is the 54th and final part of Ceri Joseph of Porthcawl Museum's series, charting life in the town in the First World War, month by month.

The GEM would like to thank her for her stamina, her painstaking attention to detail, and for her eye for stories that bring the human element of history to life.

Well done Ceri, and many thanks!

THE war was over, yet it had changed the world forever.

Empires had fallen and, amid the debris of fractured territories, new states emerged. The main points of the Treaty of Versailles, signed on June 28, 1919, supported self-determination for these new states; the creation of The League of Nations to promote discussion among nations, and to enforce war reparation payments on Germany.

Some groups welcomed these changes while others baulked at what they perceived as enforced measures against their will. Such enmity and dissatisfaction would eventually lead to another war.

However, in December 1918 most people had an optimism for a better world. In Porthcawl that Christmas such concerns seemed distant.

'To the delight of everyone, particularly the children, Porthcawl's tradespeople tastefully decorated their windows for this wonderful peace Christmas.' (Porthcawl News)

The weekend before Christmas, John Street had been crowded with shoppers, who delighted in the excellent display of meat and poultry at Braggs and Hilliers – the town's butchers shops, with Clare and Griffiths, the local jeweller's shop described as being 'a blaze of gold, silver and precious stones.'

But it was Hocking's and Hutchinson's, the toy and fancy goods dealers, who were the busiest, with their excellent selection of Christmas novelties.

Furthermore, many soldiers were allowed home on furlough with 150 soldiers treated to a celebratory dinner at the Central Café, John Street on January 2, 1919. The homecoming of one soldier, in particular, caused great excitement in December 1918.

Upon the signing of the armistice Private George Walton, Border Regiment, 11 Queen's Avenue, was released from Wilebursch Camp, Germany; sent by train to Metz, on to Calais, where he crossed the Channel to Dover and arrived home by train in time for Christmas.

Many other soldiers on furlough in Porthcawl that Christmas, however, had to return to their regiments before they could be officially demobilised. In early February 1919, Lance Corporal James John Passmore was as required, returned to France.

John was one of three sons and two daughters born to James and Edith Passmore of 4, Vintin Terrace, Porthcawl. John had been born in either January or February 1895 in Maesteg, the year before the family moved to Porthcawl where his father, James, worked as a gardener.

On leaving school, John and his brother Robert worked as hewers in the local coal mine; but just prior to the war John had begun work at the Porthcawl Gasworks.

Both he and his younger brother David George enlisted in 1916, with George enlisting into the Lancashire Fusiliers and John into the RASC Motor Transport.

John saw action in 1917 at both Cambrai and Ypres, during which time he was gassed; while brother George, had suffered gunshot wounds to the left elbow and left knee at Passchendaele in



Hilliers, John Street.

1917.

On his return to France John contracted the Spanish Flu and died on February 28, 1919 aged 24 years old. Lance Corporal James John Passmore is buried at La Baraque Military Cemetery, Sangatte, France and is remembered with honour on the Porthcawl Memorial. Corporal David George Passmore was demobbed on November 28, 1919 and returned to his job as a baker at J House & Son, Porthcawl.

Many more soldiers were expected home by the end of the year. On returning to Porthcawl after being on active service, some remarked that the new railway station was a credit to the town. One commented that:

'It will look even better when trees are planted around it and the old dock is made into a lake.' (Porthcawl News, January 30, 1919.)

On February 6, 1919 Sergeant William H Richardson of the Welsh Guards returned to duty at Porthcawl Police Station; followed by PC David Hayes in May.

That same February, Captain Donald Herne, older brother of the late Captain Keith Herne, Royal Warwickshire Regiment who had died from pneumonia that month, successfully applied for a licence to operate passenger flights from Locks Common, Porthcawl, with Mrs EH Deere being the first lady to make the trip on May 17.

In April 1919 crowds were recorded at Porthcawl over Easter, with Easter eggs allowed to be sold between April 8 – 23. Also, is the news that the American naval officers who visited Porthcawl that April from their ship docked at Port Talbot, were the people credited with naming Coney Beach after Coney Island, New York.

It was several German prisoners, employed as part of the country's rebuilding scheme, who actually cleared the ballast tip at the north end of the dock that would become eventually the fairground.

The Rest Home also opened its doors, once again, to civilians on April 4, 1919 but with a debt of £10,000 incurred through caring for over 2,500 wounded soldiers during its war service.

Local events, however, were successfully organised which helped The Rest avoid closure.

Porthcawl, like all other towns, enjoyed Peace Day on July 19, 1919 which was a national day of celebration and festivities to commemorate the signing of the Peace Treaty at Versailles.

Amid a world of recurring nightmares, heartbreak, reminders of the sacrifice made, the threat of Spanish flu being ever present it seemed that the country had slowly begun to heal its wounds and focus on rebuilding a 'land fit for returning soldiers.'



Porthcawl War Memorial.



Donald Herne.



Captain Keith Herne.

heroes'. The rebuilding, though, was not as simple as many had hoped.

Many changes dominated British life. Politically, the growth of the Labour Party and trade union movement coincided with all men over 21, and women over 30 getting the vote in December 1918.

Although the PUDC maintained a Liberal majority in 1918, and would continue to do so for some years, opinions in the town slowly began to reflect the growth of socialism with the Porthcawl Labour Party holding its first AGM 1919, organised by its secretary Lewis Mably.

The rise of the Labour Party in the town was even more evident on March 4, 1920 when Mr Ramsay Macdonald addressed a crowd from the balcony of the Coliseum, John Street. He would later win the local seat, Aberavon in 1922 and become Britain's first Labour Prime Minister in 1924.

The economy still suffered from the restrictions of rationing and the scarcity of certain goods. Rationing actually ended in 1921. Although, the supply of Irish fresh eggs was healthy, early in 1919 the government declared that 'Milk is likely to be scarce all winter.'

It was 'children first,' a decision which, in February 1919, influenced the Porthcawl Food Committee to fix the price of milk at 3/- a gallon.

A further concern for children's welfare led the Government to make loans available to local education authorities with the aim of providing school canteens. Surely, a precursor to school dinners!

In June 1919 coal prices soared nationally, with a coal famine experienced in Porthcawl. High coal prices also led to high freight costs on the trains, which in turn led to higher prices in the shops.

Nationally, unemployment soared due to the high productivity of staple industries of coal, shipbuilding and steel being greatly reduced in peacetime. Women also had to cede their jobs to returning soldiers.

Further, to curb the National Debt which had obviously rocketed through financing a war, the

planned housing and health schemes were put on hold.

Yet in November 1919 the building by-laws were relaxed to encourage house building. Consequently, more streets were built or completed by 1925 including Picton Avenue, Arlington Road, Blundell Avenue, Suffolk Place and Lewis Place.

Finally, despite the town endeavouring to look forward, it was essential that the sacrifice of those who did not return would never be forgotten. On May 23, 1920 at St John's Church, Newton, the Rev T Holmes Morgan conducted a service incorporating the unveiling of two memorial windows to honour those from the parish of Newton Nottage who fell in the Great War, with a brass tablet carrying the names of the fallen placed below the windows.

Five more servicemen died before the town's memorial was completed. All memorials built following the war were financed by public donation and subscription. Porthcawl's memorial was erected by public subscription at a cost of £500.

On July 16, 1921 the monument, which was placed in the enclosure of All Saints' Church, was dedicated by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Llandaff and unveiled by Colonel HR Homfray, Penllyn Castle. It took until the late 1920s before the 77 names of men inscribed on its panels were completed.

Fortunately, as a seaside resort Porthcawl did not suffer many of the effects of the Great Depression; conversely the town developed as tourist numbers grew consistently into the 1930s. As in 1914, the town's growth would then be interrupted once again by war.

Thanks to you all, who have read and supported my articles over the last four and a half years. It's been a long but very satisfying journey.

All 1918 articles, plus the biographies of men who died after the war, are included in the third and final book in the trilogy – Porthcawl and the Great War. It goes on sale at the museum from December 8 price £7.50. All proceeds to Porthcawl Museum.

Ceri Joseph

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Milking: a good story for all of us



Abi Reader of Goldsland Farm talking with Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns MP and PM May at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Winter Fair.

COWSONTOUR is a voluntary initiative, originally set up by farmers in Glamorgan, for the purpose of telling the farming story.

We take, from the farmyard to the school yard, produce, animals, tractors, as well as ourselves. Sometimes these are big full day events involving up to 20 farmers and we have previously been to schools in London, Cardiff and Newport.

In 2019, CowsOnTour is doing a roadshow around Wales from May 13-19 and we were at the Winter Fair at the Royal Welsh

Showground to recruit farmers and businesses in Wales to join us on the tour.

Thanks to the support of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and Alun Cairns, Secretary of State for Wales and Vale MP, we were given the opportunity to speak not only to Prime Minister May, but also Her Royal Highness Countess of Wessex.

Anyone who would like to join our roadshow or offer sponsorship can email cowsontourfarmers@gmail.com or see our Facebook Page CowsOnTour.

Abi Reader,
Goldsland Farm,
Wenvoe



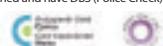
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Become a 'stamp champ' for CLIC Sargent

CHRISTMAS is a time when families should be together, celebrating, yet the reality for lots of families of young cancer patients means ongoing

treatment far from home, increasing financial burden and emotional pain.

This festive season, CLIC Sargent is calling on people across the UK to raise money for young cancer patients and their families, to provide them with specialist support this Christmas.

CLIC Sargent is a cancer charity for children and young people with cancer providing vital practical, emotional and financial support to help limit the damage caused beyond a young person's health.

There are two ways you can help CLIC Sargent this Christmas; either get festive with your own fundraising event, or become a Stamp Champ by saving used stamps from Christmas cards and sending them in to the charity to be resold.

Send your stamps to: Stamp Champ Christmas, CLIC Sargent, Unit 6, Abbey Wood Business Park, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7JU.

Cerys Sadler, CLIC Sargent Fundraising and Engagement Manager for South and Mid Wales

Legal advice
AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a free legal advice session on Tuesday, December 11.

This will be held at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry from 10am to 12pm. No appointment is needed; you will be able to chat to a local legal team on Wills, Power of Attorney and Living Wills. Call 01446 732385 for further information.



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Barry pupils skate in Disney on Ice



Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg pupils will take to the ice on December 16.

FOUR pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg will take to the ice on December 16 as part of the *World of Disney and the Descendants* cast, skating as some of the famous Disney characters.

Harriet Wells, Lily Chandler, Mollie-Mai, and Emily Eveleigh from years 7 and 8 at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg have been chosen through auditions to perform in the show at the Viola Arena.

Harriet, who will perform the part of

Snow White, was British champion under 12 years old in dance ice skating last year.

Harriet said: "This show has given my confidence a boost. I've also met some new friends on the ice, as well as grown closer to the other girls from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg as we have a shared love of skating."

Mollie-Mai, who won the Lee Valley National Ice Skating competition this year, will be playing the part of Bashful, with Lily Chandler beside her as Sneezy, also from *Snow White*. Emily will be one of the sisters of Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*. AS

PACT meetings in the Vale

GIBBONSDOWN 'Cuppa with a Copper' is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon.

Meet your local officer in **PENARTH LEISURE CENTRE** on Thursday, December 6 at 10am.

There will be a coffee and chat at the Star Inn, **TREOES** on Thursday, December 6 at 11am.

There will be a Cuppa with a Copper at The YMCA HUB, Court Road, Barry on Wednesday, December

12 between 2pm and 3.30pm.

A police surgery will be held at **LLANTWIT MAJOR** Library on Tuesday, December 18 between 10.30am and 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.

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Cardiff and Vale NHS reports 76 'serious incidents' in two months

THE unexpected deaths of 11 patients known to mental health services are among 76 serious incidents Cardiff and Vale NHS has reported to Welsh Government.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board said it is thought the coroner is likely to conclude suicide in three of the patients' deaths, while the circumstances for the deaths of the remaining eight patients are not yet confirmed.

Their deaths were among 76 serious incidents the health board reported to Welsh Government in September and October.

A total of 47 serious incidents related to pressure ulcers across several services and departments of the hospital board.

Work has been done with district nurses to improve the reporting of pressure damage (damage to the skin and underlying tissue) in community care

settings, which is contributing to the number of related serious incidents being reported, a health board report stated.

The health board reported eight falls where patients suffered significant injuries.

A patient had an incorrect lens inserted during an ophthalmology procedure on their eye. The procedure was being managed by an external provider commissioned by the health board. This incident is now being treated as a 'never event' - classed as a serious, largely preventable and should not have happened.

In another incident reported to Welsh Government, a patient was discharged from a ward and unexpectedly re-admitted five days later. He died following his readmission.

An incident of "significant" self-harm to a patient who required admission to acute services to tend to her physical wellbeing, before transfer to Hafan Y

Coed mental health unit, was also reported to Welsh Government.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board reports all serious incidents to Welsh Government, the public and to its board members. Welsh Government guidance also requires the health board to report unexpected deaths of patients who are known to mental health services and die unexpectedly or experience serious harm in a community setting.

A health board spokeswoman said: "All incidents are fully investigated and appropriate actions are taken to reduce the risk of recurrence in the future. This enables clinical boards and the corporate teams to identify areas of good practice, but also to identify emerging trends and issues that require action in order to improve safety and quality of services."

Matt Discombe, local democracy reporter

Edwards Holidays wins travel award

E D W A R D S Holidays has won silver in the 2018 British Travel Awards, it was announced on November 28 at a ceremony in London attended by more than 800 people from the travel industry.

British Travel Awards' chief executive Lorraine Barnes Burton said: "Edwards is to be congratulated on winning the silver award. The

British Travel Awards are the only travel industry accolade voted for exclusively by the consumer, and the awards serve to recognise all that is great about travel, as casting their vote this year.

Managing director, Jason Edwards said: "I experienced by the cannot emphasise how travelling public. To win proud I am of the team and how grateful we are a true achievement."

TeleV aid project advice

THE TeleV Project aims to improve quality of life by helping vulnerable people manage the risks of living in their own homes.

An adviser will be available to chat to on Tuesday, December 11 from 10am to 12pm at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Penarth registrar's 'outstation' to close

A DEATH registration service will commence at the University Hospital Llandough (UHL) in January, and the registrar's outstation in Penarth will close.

Run jointly by the Vale Council and the University Health Board the new registrar's office will be located adjacent to the existing

Bereavement Service on the first floor at UHL.

The service will allow bereaved families to register a death at UHL once they have collected the death certificate.

The registrar's outstation operating at Westhouse, Penarth will be closed as a result. This office is the only remaining outstation in operation.

The main Registrar's Office based at the Civic Offices will continue to provide a registration

Walking Nativity

HAVE you ever wanted to know what it actually felt like to be with Mary and Joseph at the time of Jesus' birth?

On December 15, come rain or moonshine, the Old Hall Gardens and Physic Garden in Cowbridge will be transformed into an exact replica of first century Palestine with real people, real carols and a real manger.

Churches Together in Cowbridge will be performing one of the most important stories ever told and celebrating it afterwards with mince pies and mulled wine at Old Hall.

The Walking Nativity will be at 6pm on December 15, starting in the Old Hall Gardens near Cowbridge library. Entrance is free and there is no need to book. Please note that it will be dark and the Light of the World appears halfway through the story, so you will need to bring a torch.

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Hospital 'no shows' total 85,000 in a year

NHS services in Cardiff and the Vale are counting the cost of patients not turning up for appointments after 85,000 no-shows in just a year.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board reported that 23,000 new non-emergency hospital outpatient appointments in the 12 months leading to October did not go ahead because the patient did not attend; 10.1 per cent of appointments did not go ahead.

In that same period, 62,000 follow-up outpatient appointments were no-shows - 11.5 per cent of all follow-ups scheduled by the health board.

In total, almost 300,000 outpatient appointments were missed in NHS

hospitals across Wales in 2016-17. Health boards claim this costs the Welsh NHS £36 million, but this was questioned because outpatient clinics can sometimes be overbooked.

The health board said that missed appointments put a strain on staff and could lead to increased waiting times.

A spokesman for Cardiff and Vale Health Board said: "The impact to the health board of missed appointments is considerable. Each missed appointment has a degree of waste associated with it, with an estimated financial cost of an average of £160 per appointment."

Matt Discombe, local democracy reporter

Aston Martin staff ready to start production

ASTON MARTIN is ready to manufacture cars with 750 jobs and the St Athan team are returning from the company's Gaydon HQ for Christmas.

This was the message from James Stephens last week, Director Global Government and External Affairs Aston Martin, to stakeholders followed by a tour of the

manufacturing plant and viewing of the all electric models to be manufactured at St Athan.

One local politician, Jane Hutt AM, called the tour a "memorable event" and welcomed the certainty of 750 skilled jobs in the area.

She added: "The manufacture of all electric cars made in Wales at Aston Martin is particularly exciting."

The GEM
will be taking a break for Christmas!

We will not be printing an edition for the 27th December.

The first edition for 2019 will be 3rd January.

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Llantwit Major dental practice raises funds and awareness during Mouth Cancer Action Month

MOUTH Cancer Action month has ended, but Wyndham House Dental Practice are still remaining aware and urging their patients and everyone else to keep an eye on any lumps, ulcers or anything else unusual, and to have it checked if there are any concerns.

In November, Wyndham House hosted a charity day to raise funds and awareness for this life-altering disease.

Although the day was wet and dismal, it didn't stop the dentists, nurses and reception staff handing out more than 50 goodie bags, carrying out a large number of soft tissue checks and raising £441 for the Mouth Cancer Action fund.

Simon Hill took to the stocks and even though the sun peeked through, it didn't help to keep him dry as visitors to the practice took aim (most with great accuracy) and donated to the charity for the privilege.

Local businesses were very generous in donating raffle prizes and the support from

Sunkissed Beauty and Tanning, West House Country Hotel, Force Strength and Conditioning and Pastures Green Florist was much appreciated. Dr Nigel Carter, chief executive of the Oral Health Foundation, said: "Mouth cancer has a devastating effect on a person's life, it impacts areas many of us take for granted such as the ability to eat, drink or even speak.

"Cases of the disease are rapidly rising and dental teams play a pivotal role in raising awareness of the disease and getting patients to understand the risks, signs and symptoms of the disease.

"Survival rates for those with mouth cancer have not improved in the last two decades and initiatives like the charity day at Wyndham House Dental Practice can make a real difference."

Anyone wanting any further information should contact Wyndham House Dental Practice, Llantwit Major on 01446 795240 or email on mail@wyndhamhousedental.com. You can also follow the Practice on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



ABOVE LEFT: The mayor of Llantwit Major and Simon Hill enjoy some fun in the stocks, while ABOVE RIGHT: The Wyndham House dental team.

Meet Pippa the Patterdale...

PIPPA is a seven-year-old Patterdale Terrier.

She does need to have slow introductions to new people as she can be shy. She will mix with other dogs, but again, can be nervous on first meeting. However once Pippa is settled in, she enjoys a cuddle and really comes out of her shell.

Pippa will suit a quiet home where she can settle in her own time. She can live with children 14 years and over.

We are unsure if she can live with cats.

For more information, visit Dogs Trust Bridgend, call on 01656 725219, or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.



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ARGUABLY one of cinema's most beloved characters, Rocky Balboa has undergone a 21st century renaissance, firstly in the eponymous 2006 film and then, in a supporting role, in 2015's *Creed*, which saw

the torch passed from Sylvester Stallone's character to Adonis Creed (Michael B Jordan), son of former opponent and friend, the late Apollo.

That film's success made a sequel a formality, and *Creed II* now punches its way into cinemas. Having won the world heavyweight title, Adonis finds himself accepting a challenge from Viktor Drago (Florian Munteanu), the son of Ivan (Dolph Lundgren) – the fighter who killed his father.

Creed is met with resistance by those around him, including Rocky (Stallone) and his partner Bianca (Tessa Thompson), but does he have what it takes to win and lay ghosts to rest?

Creed was a film that breathed new life into the boxing movie genre, not so much reinventing the wheel, but giving it a spit and polish and trying to ground things as much as possible.

With that film's director Ryan Coogler moving on (having helmed a small, independent production called *Black Panther*), the director's chair is now filled by Steven

Caple Jr.

In his hands, he has carved a film that is emotionally powerful, thoroughly compelling and, quite possibly, outstrips the first film, the weight of the narrative and its resonance throughout giving the film a depth that is wholly engaging.

While this is a boxing film, there is something almost Shakespearean about the way it focuses on the paternal relationships within it, whether absent (Adonis' late father casting a shadow over him), symbolic (the relationship between Adonis and Rocky) or driven by the sins and mistakes of the past (Ivan and Viktor).

This is where the meat of the film is, and where the story really cuts to the quick. Plot-wise it plays with an air of predictability, but when these themes are attached to that

framework, it lends it far more impact, and you can give the slightly by-the-numbers plotting when it sketches such powerful characters and their relationships.

Michael B Jordan is

showing no signs of losing momentum and here we see the

cocksure, yet driven, character from the first film in uncharted waters, pushed to the brink physically and mentally, while his life outside the ring grows and develops. Jordan is superb here, and really nails the turns of the character.

Tessa Thompson is solid, sidelined due to the overarching plot and the amount of testosterone on display, while Stallone, who can

most likely do Rocky in his sleep, again delivers a strong turn, one that is laced with poignancy and emotion.

Perhaps most surprising is Dolph

Lundgren's performance. Given his career has been built on action performances where character and nuance tends to take a back seat, arguable Lundgren's maturing has afforded him more options to stretch his acting muscles.

Along with the

history of the character of Ivan, Lundgren perfectly portrays a man whose life as he knew it was more or less ended by Balboa in that fight 33 years ago and much like Stallone, there's a grizzled poignancy to his turn, while Florian Munteanu offers a

strong physical turn, if somewhat underdeveloped.

Caple Jr's direction knows how to play the right notes at the right time and much like Coogler's work in the first film, brings enough smarts to the table to know what to do and what not to do.

He places as much, if

not more stock, in the lives of the characters as he does boxing element, which means you're engaged throughout, while the climactic in-ring confrontation bristles with a visceral energy and does a superb job in building tension and excitement in equal measure.

Somewhat weak plotting aside, this is a thrilling and captivating piece of work, one that has more depth than you might expect – *Creed II*, it's safe to say, offers a knockout blow.

VERDICT: A wonderful effort, *Creed II* will have you on the edge of your seat and emotionally engaged from the get-go. Strong performances across the board and Steven Caple Jr's well-handled direction make this a thrilling cinematic experience. **Highly recommended.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Creed* (2015),

What's on and where

Lovelight Service
LLANTWIT Major Friends of Tenovus will hold their annual Lovelight Service on Tuesday, December 11 at 7.30pm at St Illtyd's Church, College Street, Llantwit Major.

This beautiful service presents an opportunity to give thanks for our loved ones: we each light a candle in love, honour or in memory of someone we love, celebrate a new life, ask for a blessing for someone, give thanks for a healing.

We have been holding this service for over 25 years with tremendous support from the community, we look forward to seeing you all again.

Please join us for Christmas Carols with the children from St Illtyd's Primary School choir, afterwards join us

for a mince pie and mulled wine!

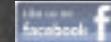
Messy Church
CHRISTMAS Messy Church will be held on Sunday, December 16 in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite Old Village Shop) at 2.30pm until about 4pm.

We extend a warm welcome to youngsters (and toddlers, with their parents): there will be fun activities for all the family, lots of crafty things to make (including a Christingle) a Bible story, some singing and plenty of refreshments – and there may be presents! We would be delighted if you could join us: further info from Rev Lee Dutfield on 07784 869020; Canon Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

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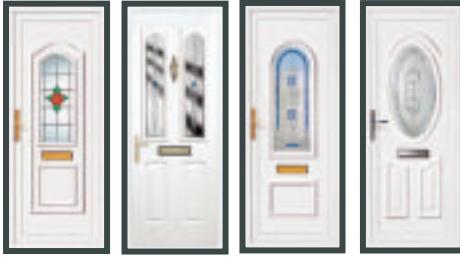
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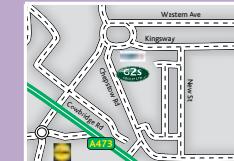
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Skyhawk launches eco-friendly cleaning range



Skyhawk Global Ltd, which works from The Business Centre in Barry, launched a new range of eco cleaning products at the Kitchen Bureau in Cardiff. Among the guests was Vale Mayor, Cllr Leighton Rowlands.

BARRY - based innovators in environmental biotech, Skyhawk Global Ltd, have released a new range of green cleaning products for the home and pets at a launch event in Cardiff.

The event, entitled 'Your Green Home Starts Here', took place at the Kitchen Bureau and was attended by members of the Vale community, as well as interested investors from as far

afield as South Africa and America.

Managing director Andrew East said: "The event brought together the hard work of the team, who have been developing a new range of vegan, eco-friendly and sustainable cleaning products for the home.

"We have already started to have some trade success, winning awards and accolades for the range. We have plenty of Nu-Eco stock ready at Masons Self Storage and can't wait for it to hit the shelves."

Monday Club

COWBRIDGE (Gateway) Monday Club (affiliated with MENCAP) will hold their Christmas party on Monday, December 10 at 7pm, when Simon Sparkles, magician will entertain before the party food.

An invitation is extended to any interested or prospective members aged 16 and over with learning disabilities, or volunteer helpers, at the United Free Church Hall, Cowbridge, entrance via Broadhoard.

The club meets on the second Monday of the month and has a varied programme of events, including an annual dinner at the Bear Hotel in March. Contact president Betty on 01446 773373, treasurer Sue on 01446 772788 or secretary Ann on 01446 781309.

Ellis family say support has been 'phenomenal'



Nicola and Lyndsay Ellis.

LYNDSAY and Nicola Ellis of the Vale Funeral Service have announced with great regret that they cannot host their Community Christmas Memorial Service this year.

The event had become a major event in the town's diary with attendances of more than 300 people.

Those attending the service remembered loved-ones no longer with them at a time in the year when thoughts are naturally drawn to family. They were also unable to host it last year due to Nicola's health problems.

Lyndsay told The GEM: "We are sure that the local community will understand our reasons at this difficult time, bearing in mind the

difficult journey Nicola and the family are going through.

"We wish to thank all the Barry community for the continued support and the love shown to us. People have been phenomenal.

"Our prayers and thoughts are with everyone during this season in which loved ones are not with us in person but are always in our hearts and memories.

"Once again, we apologise for not bringing our memorial service to you but hope people understand."

Nicola has proved an inspiration to women who have been suffering from breast cancer.

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, she spoke of her experience and urged women to make regular checks to ensure early detection of the disease.

TC

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The salon at Posh Pawz.

If you want your pet dog looking his or her best for the festive season, then the place to visit is Posh Pawz, on the main street in Rhoose.

Kath has been in town for over six years now, and Christmas is the busiest time of the year, with owners smartening up their dogs before taking them to family gatherings.

It is in fact, her seventh Christmas here so customers know what to expect.

Kath said: "The support from the people of the Vale over the years has been great, and I would like to wish all our customers a very happy Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you next year.

"I would like to thank all my lovely clients for their continued support.

"All old and new clients are very welcome."

Vale AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on Friday, December 7 from 4pm-5pm at Dinas Powys Murchfield Hall; no appointment necessary.

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With Quartzize you'll be spoilt for choice. It comes in a fantastic range of colours and finishes, so there's something to compliment any style of kitchen. Within no time at all,

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Fund council's social care services properly and you can help the NHS – says Vale leader

WELSH Government has now announced an updated provisional settlement for local government funding for 2019/20.

This is significant because the vast majority of any Welsh council's budget comes not from the council tax and business rates the local authority receives from residents and traders, but from this annual payment, commonly referred to as the Revenue Support Grant, or RSG.

The funding of council services has been the topic of much debate in these pages in recent weeks and so I thought GEM readers would appreciate someone cutting through the politics and offering the straight facts of the matter.

Next year, the Vale Council's operating budget is likely to be £226m. Despite them finding additional money days after announcing an initial settlement 2019/20, Welsh Government has still, in real terms, reduced the funding of every council in Wales.

In the Vale, the proposed reduction in funding from Welsh Government is £1m.

This figure alone would be manageable, but rapidly increasing demand for some of our most expensive services, such as adult social care, means the cost of operating the council rises markedly each year.

When inflation and all anticipated service cost pressures are taken into account, the budget reduction becomes closer to £14m.

This is a much tougher challenge, especially considering that savings of more than £50m have already been made since 2010.

Already around 75 per cent of our annual budget is spent on social care and education, and these are the very services that are under intense pressure as demands on our services continue to grow.

The strong words that I have addressed to Welsh Government in recent weeks are not motivated by party politics. I have repeatedly made it clear that my motivation is to ensure that highly-valued public services are protected.

Indeed, this year's draft settlement united

council leaders of all political colours in condemnation, and this is because there is simply no recognition of the huge pressures we all face due to the rapidly rising demand for services such as education and social care.

In Wales, it seems there is always additional money available for the health service but never for the vital preventative services provided by local councils.

Ironically, these are the very services that if funded adequately, would remove a great deal of the pressure our colleagues in the NHS are under.

To put it simply, councils across Wales are at breaking point after suffering from year after year of cuts to their budgets, something for which the governments in both Westminster and Cardiff Bay must take responsibility.

At a time when all public spending should be under the microscope, we have a government in Wales that is still happy to promise better services without ever explaining who will pay for them or how.

This is irresponsible and to mask the dire

straits that those of us actually delivering the services are now navigating does the Welsh public a great disservice.

In the Vale, we are on course to reduce our operating costs by around £4m next year, as cost savings already identified are realised.

This, of course, still leaves £10m to be found. A final budget for the Vale must be agreed at a meeting of full council on February 27 and between now and then, my goal is to ensure that we can continue as far as possible to deliver those vital local services that our residents and communities need and deserve. However, to say that this will not be straightforward would be an understatement.

We will soon be launching a public consultation exercise asking residents which of our services they most value and how we can generate additional income to plug the £10m funding gap.

Residents will be able to take part via our website and I would urge all GEM readers to do so.



by Cllr John Thomas, Leader of the Vale Council.

Local NHS Wales staff report increase in bullying by colleagues

NHS staff at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) are increasingly reporting bullying from their own colleagues.

An NHS survey found 18 per cent of Cardiff and Vale health board staff said they have experienced harassment, bullying or abuse at work from their manager, team leader or colleagues in the last year, up from 16 per cent in 2016.

Only around half of staff – 48 per cent – have said effective action has been taken as a result of staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse.

A further 22 per cent said they had suffered harassment, bullying or abuse from patients or service users, their relatives or other members of the public, which had also increased from 20 per cent in 2016.

Levels of work-related stress among Cardiff and Vale NHS staff have also "significantly worsened" in 2018, the survey found.

More than a third (34 per cent) of staff who responded say they have been injured or felt unwell as a result of work-related stress during the past 12 months, up from 28 per cent in 2016.

A total of 63 per cent said in the last three months they had come to work despite not feeling well enough to perform their duties, up from 57 per

cent in 2016.

Some 25 per cent said they felt pressure from their managers to come to work, but this had dropped from 39 per cent in 2013.

A total of 3,382 Cardiff and Vale UHB staff completed the survey, but the number of people who answered each question varied.

The survey also found 65 per cent of staff would recommend Cardiff and Vale University Health Board as a place to work and 78 per cent would be happy for a friend or relative to be treated there.

A spokesman for Cardiff and Vale UHB said: "We welcome the feedback our staff have given through the survey, as it enables us to explore any issues raised and to work with our staff to make improvements where necessary.

"As a health board, we do not tolerate bullying and harassment and feel that everyone should feel safe and supported when they come to work.

"Our chair, Maria Battle, has been instrumental in developing the 'Freedom to Speak Up Safely' campaign which is committed to providing an environment which facilitates open dialogue and communication to ensure any concerns staff may have are raised and responded to as soon as possible."

Matt Discombe, local democracy reporter

Barry Rotary Club helps a foodbank out with Christmas donations

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Barry joined forces with team members

of the Vale Foodbank over a three-day period at the weekend, to help with the collection of food donations at the Tesco stores in Barry and Penarth.

Both organisations would like to thank Tesco for their assistance and the public for their continued support, which is much appreciated.

At this time of year, the Vale Foodbank particularly need donations of Christmas items. Anyone wishing to make donations can take their items to the

special collection boxes in many supermarkets and churches throughout the town.

Over 90 per cent of the food distributed by Foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network is donated by the public, enabling them to give everyone a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food.

The Vale Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches facilitated by the Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Barry and is a registered charity.

Further information on donating, volunteering or how to get help can be found at info@vale.foodbank.org.uk or by calling 07879562077.



Barry Rotary Club helpers Jill Osborne, Rose Pitman and Jane Lamey with Vale Foodbank representative, Denny Marshallsea.

Rare trees are planted at White Farm

MEMBERS of Barry Action for Nature spent the morning of November 24 planting rare Welsh species of fruit trees at White Farm.

The trees included the Bardsey apple, Denbigh plum, Goose's beak apple, Abergwyngregyn Damson, Anglesey Pig's Snout and the Snowdon Queen pear. The group also sowed wildflower seeds and crocuses.

Rob Curtis of Barry Action for Nature said: "I would like to pay tribute to our volunteers who worked very hard in wet and cold conditions but at least they were kept warm by the thought of helping our wildlife. I would also like to thank Biffa Awards for supplying the trees."

In other news, a non-native Chilean pine (*Araucaria araucana*), planted by the group, was stolen.

See www.glamorgan-gem.com for the story.



Got a story?
Then get in touch with us -
email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

For all the latest news from your area -
[glamorgan-gem.co.uk](http://www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk)

PDSA on agenda for local group

AT a recent meeting of Barry Men's Forum, Karina Maggs from the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), gave members an illustrated talk on their work treating domestic pets.

The PDSA was founded 101 years ago and has over 64 hospitals nationwide, as well as many charity shops. These latter are crucial in the generation of income, as it costs £1 million per annum to keep the Cardiff hospital open.

The costs for treating

animals can vary considerably and are determined by the owner's ability to pay. Many problems dealt with by the hospital on a regular basis are weight-related; animals being fed the wrong food causing obesity; fleas; worming and forms of surgery.

The forum meets weekly at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry, on Thursdays at 9.45am; new members are always welcome.

For further information, contact Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

PDGG

Penarth Bake Off turns out to be a great day for charity



Daisy Tucker receives her prize..

PENARTH Bakeoff made a return for 2018 on November 4 to raise some dough for two local charities: Forget-Me-Not Chorus and Marie Curie.

This year's competition raised £1,553.92, thanks to the additional help of the Garfield Weston Foundation through The Big Give.

Penarth Bakeoff is the ultimate baking battle where passionate baking fans compete to be crowned Penarth's Best Baker, across seven different categories. Jo Jones was crowned Penarth's Best Bake, and the Penarth's Best Young Baker title went to Daisy Tucker.

Entertainment on the day came from Little Fizz, Penarth Community Choir, Joe Pope, Will Summers and Steph Jackson—thank you for sharing your talent on the stage.

Organised by Penarth View, this year's competition was sponsored by Cleaner's Got Talent, Seabreeze Homes and Mason's Self Storage. Special thanks must also go to our competition judges David Schönhthal, Charlotte Williams and Nicola Philip for judging so professionally and fairly.

To our team of volunteers, thank you for giving your time so selflessly.

To the compère Sifyn Parri and photographer Phil Lewis, thank you for giving the day extra shine and capturing the event for posterity.

John and Will from Penarth View would like to thank everyone who baked a cake, entered the spirit of the day, and came along to raise an incredible £1,553.92 for two incredibly important charities.

It's humbling to see how alive and well community spirit is in our town.

John Davies



Jo Jones with her prize.

Mountain peaks and coastal views for Penarth Ramblers

SEVEN walkers joined Terry from Penarth and District Ramblers on the train journey to Port Talbot to complete the 12-mile journey along part of the Wales Coast Path to Swansea.

Heading down to the coast and making their way across the River Afan, some street walking brought them past playing fields towards Aberavon Sands, and the promenade above the long three-mile stretch of beach with grand views towards Swansea Bay.

Making their way through Baglan Burrows, the group went inland, past the huge Baglan Bay Power Station and arrived on the banks of the River Neath.

They continued past the Brunel Tower, which held a hydraulic machine invented by William George Armstrong that opened the locks and operated cranes at Briton Ferry Floating Dock.

Heading alongside the noisy A48, they crossed the River Neath to join Fabian Way, past the four-storey octagonal tower used by the military during World War Two as a lookout, and which is now part of a hotel and spa.

They joined the pretty towpath beside the redundant Tennant Canal that runs for eight miles between Port Tennant and Aberdulais, that was built for ships carrying coal. A modern bridge led them to the Prince of Wales Dock and Swansea Marina, with its white Norwegian Church.

Leaving the Wales Coast Path, they made their way back through Swansea

to the train station for the train back home.

In contrast, the following day Robin and spainel Pepper took their group of nine walkers to the Black Mountain to walk some of the peaks in the Carmarthen Fans.

Starting at Tafarn y Garreg, a footbridge led them across the River Tawe for their first climb up Alt Fach.

In a chilly wind, they continued the long haul up the rocky escarpment of Fan Hir, straight into low cloud and mist which blocked out all the surrounding views.

Continuing their journey along the ridge, another climb led them onto Fan Brycheiniog, the highest peak of the Black Mountain and from there they made their way to its sister peak, Fan Foe.

Locating a pathway for the long descent into the valley below, they turned to make their way towards Llyn y Fan Fawr, 'lake of the big peak,' where the mist was lifting.

A grassy pathway led them alongside the misty lake to the rocky hillside of Fan Fehan, while above them, Fan Hir was encased in thick cloud.

Following the Nant Tawe Fehan downhill, the mist lifted to give views of the valley as they made their way back to their start.

For up to date information, visit www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or see Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward



The South Wales Clarinet Choir took part in a concert to raise funds for Dinas Library.

Library celebrates second anniversary

DINAS POWYS Library and Activity Centre has an ambitious programme of events to provide entertainment and raise funds.

The latest event was a concert at which the South Wales Clarinet Choir performed to friends and supporters of the library.

The clarinet choir is an ensemble consisting entirely of instruments from the clarinet family. Alongside the standard Bb clarinet, the choir includes Eb, alto, bass, contra-alto and contra-bass clarinets. The sound is quite unique, full and surprisingly varied, and is the equivalent of the

string orchestra.

The library is now celebrating its second anniversary of being community-led by more than 40 volunteers and is managed by a small board of trustees.

Regular weekly activities include a children's story time, Lego Club and Thursday coffee mornings. It also holds a 'Coding Club' on Fridays at 3.30pm.

Chris Franks, chair of the trustees, told The GEM: "Forthcoming events include a Christmas carol concert on December 17 at 2.30pm in the library. All are welcome and there is no admission charge."

Sky notes for December

THIS month the Milky Way, our own galaxy, lies overhead and the prominent constellation of Cassiopeia (looking like a letter W) sits right in the middle.

If you look with a pair of binoculars, you will have a glorious view of one arm of our galaxy. We need to look towards the eastern and south-eastern horizon to see the glorious winter constellations rise high enough to be impressive.

Halfway overhead towards the south east, is Taurus with its two show-off open clusters—the Hyades and Pleiades.

These can easily be identified as the Hyades has the bright naked-eye star Aldebaran (which is not really a member of the cluster as it lies closer to us, but it will help identification).

The cluster has two

lines of stars forming the letter 'V,' while the Pleiades looks like a miniature Plough. They are much younger and will appear blue/white.

Below Taurus waiting its turn in the limelight is mighty Orion (the hunter).

The main outline shows the hunter's body—two stars mark his shoulders, three stars close together in a line mark his belt, and another two stars mark his feet.

Compare the top left-hand star (Betelgeux) with the bottom right star of his foot (Rigel). Both are very powerful and the colours different; one is orange, the other white.

Use binoculars to locate his belt. All three should fit inside the view; carefully drop your gaze directly below the stars and they should pick up a fuzzy blob—this is a stellar nursery.

The Orion Nebula marks the place where

Maesteg sector PACT meetings

OGMORE VALLEY PACT public meeting will be held at Dinas Close on Tuesday, December 11 at 6.30pm.

MAESTEG EAST, MAESTEG WEST and LLANGYNWYD PACT public meeting at Cwm Calon, Castle Street, Maesteg, on Thursday, December 13 at 6pm.

CAERAU PACT public meeting at Noddfa Community Centre on Monday, December 10 at 6pm.

BETTWYS PACT public meeting at Bettws Life Centre on Thursday, December 13 at 6pm.

December 6 at 2pm.

If you have any non-emergency issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team either by telephoning 101 or on the contact mobile/telephone numbers or e-mail address, issued on the 'Your Neighbourhood' section of South Wales Police website,

www.wales.police.uk for your respective area.

pointed out a single observer will not see this many, because they will appear all over the sky.

The best views will be from dark sky locations away from artificial lights. No optical aid is required apart from your naked eye.

If you locate Gemini, turn your back on it, look at the sky, get comfortable (best to sit or better still lie down) and enjoy the display.

This month there is something else to look at from December 12, as Comet 46P/Wirtanen will be close to the constellation Taurus.

I know what you are thinking – another comet a couple of months ago turned out to be unimpressive, but astronomers must remain positive and this comet should reach naked eye visibility.

The Moon is near Mars on December 14, and it forms a triangle with the Pleiades and Hyades on the 20th.

Keep an eye on the website for details about our observing sessions and meetings: www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com.

DAVE POWELL

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Police investigate death of Penarth woman on train

BRITISH Transport Police have launched an investigation following the death of a 28-year-old Penarth woman on a train between Bath and Keynsham.

The Ambulance Service and police were called to an incident on Saturday evening, December 1. Initial police inquiries suggest the woman may have been leaning out of a window when she suffered a blow to the head.

A police spokesman said: "Officers were called at 10.10pm on Saturday following a report a

woman had received serious head injuries while travelling on a train between Bath and Keynsham.

"Colleagues from South Western Ambulance Service also attended; however, despite their best efforts, a 28-year-old woman from Penarth sadly died at the scene. Her family has been informed.

"We are continuing to investigate the circumstances of the incident, which has been reported to the Rail Accident Investigation Branch. The death is not being treated as suspicious and a file will be prepared for the coroner."

Council to ask owners of unoccupied homes to pay more council tax

LANDLORDS with empty properties in the Vale may soon have to pay more council tax.

The Vale Council will put forward plans to remove council tax discounts for unoccupied homes.

Currently, the council allows a 50 per cent council tax discount on unoccupied homes.

But on December 3, the council's cabinet agreed to consult on plans to remove the discounts – as part of efforts to discourage owners from allowing their properties to remain empty for long periods and to bring empty homes back into use.

The change would affect unoccupied properties in classes A, B and C under Council Tax Regulations.

"The main argument against reducing the discounts would be the issue of fairness to non-resident owners, where it could be argued that they are being asked to pay for services they do not use," a council report says.

"However, whilst this may be the case, council tax is not charged on the basis that both resident and non-resident owners will use every service.

"Many services such as planning, highways, street cleaning, local policing and fire services are

essential in maintaining the local environment for both resident and non-resident owners. These services do not stop or reduce in cost when a property is empty."

Class A and B properties are unoccupied and furnished. Class A relates to properties which a restriction on occupancy by law for a period of at least 28 days in any 12 month period, whereas Class B properties have no such restriction.

Class C properties are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than six months.

Empty properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished are initially exempt from council tax altogether for up to six months – this would not change as part of the proposals.

On September 21 this year there were 779 properties in the Vale of Glamorgan in Class C – which had been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than six months – a figure the council says has been relatively constant over the past five years.

There were 543 furnished but unoccupied properties in Class B and 56 in Class A.

Matt Discombe
Local democracy reporter

Free child care available for working parents in the Vale

PARENTS will be offered 30 hours free child care per week in a scheme being rolled out across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Eligible parents in the Vale will be able to access 30 hours of funded early years education and childcare per week, for up to 48 weeks of the year.

It will consist of 12.5 hours of foundation phase nursery education and 17.5 hours of childcare a week during term time, and 30 hours of free childcare during non-term time for nine weeks.

The offer will be available to parents from the beginning of the term following their child's third birthday, until the September following their fourth birthday when they enter full time education.

It will be open to all parents or

co-habiting couples employed or self employed and residing permanently in Wales.

Both parents must be working in a two-parent family, or the sole parent in a single parent family, must be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours at National Living Wage or National Minimum Wage, up to £100,000 per parent.

The Welsh Government will fund the scheme and pay £4.50 per child per hour directly to participating childcare providers.

Previously, the plan was to introduce the offer only to certain wards within the Vale in September 2019 before a full roll out in 2021.

But now the Welsh Government has asked the Vale Council to roll out the offer across the whole county from next year.

This was agreed by the

which means parents in the Vale should be able to take up the offer from the beginning of April.

Newport Council, rather than Cardiff as previously planned, will deliver the scheme on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan, including processing all applications from parents, determining eligibility and informing parents of the outcome.

The Vale Council will be responsible for promoting the offer to parents and administering the childcare offer.

Cllr Bob Penrose, cabinet member for learning and culture, said following the meeting: "I'm delighted that the child care offer will be rolled out across the Vale with effect from April 2019, which should be a significant benefit for many working parents."

Matt Discombe
Local democracy reporter

MP welcomes big spend on Small Business Saturday

VALE MP Alun Cairns, has welcomed the news that spending on Small Business Saturday has once again increased to its highest-ever level.

Spending on December 1, 2018 reached an estimated £812million, which is an increase of 8 per cent on spending on Small Business Saturday in 2017.

Local economies and high streets in the Vale and across the UK received a boost as shoppers showed

support for small businesses, coming out in force for the UK's sixth annual Small Business Saturday.

Mr Cairns, who is a keen supporter of small businesses, visited the high streets in Barry and Llanwit Major to promote Small Business Saturday. He said: "It's one of the busiest shopping days of the year and it's an opportunity to encourage people to use their independent traders. Instead of using the internet, it's about considering what small businesses locally can offer you. They are here day in, day out, making a community. It's so important that we support them and that's what this campaign is all about."

Vale AM Jane Hutt also showed her support on Small Business Saturday welcoming Emily Thornberry, MP for Islington South and Finsbury, and met with small business owners in Cowbridge and Barry's High Street.

BOXING DAY SWIM

WHITMORE Bay Voluntary Lifeguards are holding their annual Boxing Day Swim on Wednesday, December 26, entering the water at 10am in front of Barry Island Lifeguard Station, western shelter.



Glyn Pooley and friends underneath the arch..

An 'Arch of Happiness' pops up in Knap Gardens

THE Friends of The Knap Gardens, with the help of Art4U, have created an 'Arch of Happiness' at The Knap Gardens in Barry to brighten up the winter days.

The local community group, which is committed to the upkeep of the gardens, got together on Saturday to use their creativity to put together all natural decorations.

Art4U has gathered all the volunteers and members of the local community who took part in the 'Making an Entrance' event at the Knap Lake and gardens.

Glyn Pooley said: "It was

lovely to see so many people there and their contributions were really appreciated.

"Touches such as the willow weaving and 'happiness tags' helped to make it really special.

"Members of the public are invited to add to the entrance over the Christmas period by sharing their own messages of hope and happiness.

"Why not take a walk under the 'Arch of Happiness'? Look out for the mistletoe and share joy with your friends and loved ones."

Vale MP Alun Cairns, who visited the group as they were working on the project said: "It's great to see the Friends of The Knap Gardens working hard at the

weekend to do something special for the area.

"This is fantastic community action and we're lucky to have active people locally who want to do their bit."

While speaking to the group, Mr Cairns was told about the Monkey Puzzle tree which has gone missing from The Knap Gardens.

He commented: "It's a real shame that the tree has gone missing, especially with the huge effort that the group puts in to make the gardens special. I want to help in any way that I can, so I'll be working to find a sponsor to replace the tree."

Coffee shops are helping Barnardo's this Christmas

COFFEE stores around south Wales are helping the children's charity Barnardo's bring some Christmas cheer to vulnerable children this year.

Starbucks stores run under the franchise of Magic Bean, including the one in Bridgend, have set up Christmas trees hung with gift tags, each with the name of a child supported by Barnardo's Cymru.

Customers are being encouraged to choose a tag and donate a gift for a child who might otherwise be without presents on Christmas

Day.

Hayley, a supervisor at Starbucks Bridgend, told the GEM that they were delighted with the number of people who had come forward already to donate to a child.

She said: "There is still plenty of time to join the appeal. Every gift donated will be matched to a child by Barnardo's. The last date for presents is December 14."

Gifts should be delivered to the store unwrapped, so that the charity can make a suitable match for Christmas Day.

Postcode lottery win for Bettws neighbours

ELEVEN neighbours in Bridgend woke up on December 3 to the news that their postcode was announced as a winner of the People's Postcode Lottery (PPL).

The Bettws residents each won £1,000 for every ticket that they played.

PPL ambassador Judie McCourt sent her congratulations and said: "I hope they enjoy spending their win and treating themselves to something nice in time for Christmas."



Paris Hardy, supervisor of Bridgend Starbucks, with the store's Christmas tree.

For the latest news - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Early VE Day celebrations held at local school



WHAT'S ON – IN BRIEF

Care and Repair

If you are a homeowner or private tenant living in the Vale, elderly or disabled and in need of advice or support on repairs or home improvements, Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale can help you to adapt and maintain your home. They can give advice on grants available and information on reputable companies to use.

Care and Repair will hold a session at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, December 11 from 10am to 12pm. No appointment is needed, just come along and chat to an adviser from the scheme. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Cowbridge U3A

The next Cowbridge U3A monthly meeting will be a performance by the Tongwynlais Temperance Brass Band at 2pm on Wednesday, December 12 in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge (please note change of venue).

Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes seasonal refreshments). www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Biscuits for the VE Day celebration.

THIS term, Class 4 at St Nicholas CiW Primary School has been studying World War Two.

The project covered a range of curriculum areas and culminated in a VE Day celebration, where the children learnt the skills of 'Make Do and Mend' by weaving, reusing broken items and transforming items of clothing into different uses.

In addition, traditional wartime decorations, which will be sold at the Christmas fete, were made.

The children explored the importance of the work of Bletchley Park in breaking the Enigma codes to help the war effort. They then decoded their own wartime messages.

The day culminated in a VE Day party, organised by the children who

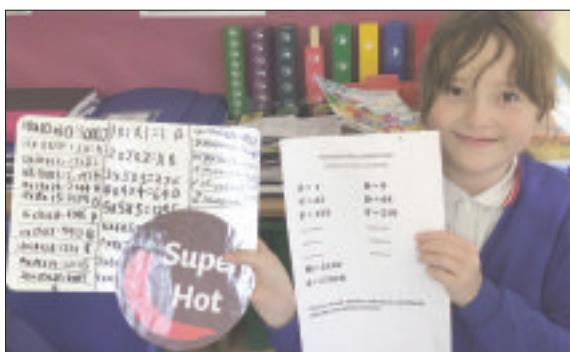
baked cakes and biscuits from wartime recipes and working with Mrs Kuczynski from the Vale Music Service, performed 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' and 'Jingle Bells', sung originally by the Andrews Sisters and Bing Crosby.

School governor, Mrs Newton, said: "Pupils in Class 4 thoroughly enjoyed learning about all aspects of life during World War Two in very exciting ways. My granddaughter Molly dressed in clothes an evacuee would have worn, which allowed her bring history to life outside the classroom."

Report written by year-6 pupils, Meghan Thomas and Oliver Famby.



Class 4 children dressed as evacuees.



Olivia shows off her decoding skills.



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ST ATHAN

ST ATHAN



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- Stunning Views
- Outbuilding and Garages
- Dating back to 1772
- Five Bedrooms
- Two Double Garages
- Private Setting
- Excellent Motorway Access

£725,000

Wine Street, Llantwit Major



- Recently Renovated and Extended
- Off Road Parking
- Bi fold Doors to Rear
- Shortlisted at the Local Authority Building Control Awards
- High Specification Fixtures and Fittings
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Open Plan Living
- Easy to Maintain Rear Garden
- EPC Rating - C

£425,000

Cae Rex, Cowbridge



- Individual Detached Property
- No Onward Chain
- South Facing Gardens
- Cowbridge Schools Catchment
- Walking distance to Cowbridge Town Centre
- Adaptable Accommodation
- Four/Five Bedrooms
- Detached Garage
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating - D

£545,000

Western Courtyard, Talygarn



- Attractive Modern Townhouse
- Two Large Reception Rooms
- Within the Popular Talygarn Manor & Country Park
- Enjoys Full Use of c.50 acres of Communal Gardens
- Walking Distance of Local Amenities
- No Onward Chain
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Quality Kitchen
- Easy to Maintain Rear Garden
- EPC Rating - C

£265,000

Pear Tree House, Llyswoaney



- Individual detached
- Five Living Rooms
- Double Glazed
- Lots of parking
- Well regarded village
- Close to Cowbridge
- Five Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Oil central heating
- Rural outlook
- Good village facilities
- EPC Rating - E

£575,000

Penylan Road, St Brides Major



- Deceptively Spacious Detached
- Three Bathrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Parking for Two Cars
- Mains Gas Fired Central Heating
- EPC Rating - D
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Huge Living/Dining Room
- Flexible Accommodation
- Detached Garage
- Close to Heritage Coastline

£389,950

St Owains Crescent, Ystradgyniad



- Traditional Mid Link Property
- Three Reception Rooms
- Renovated Throughout
- Quiet Village Location
- EPC Rating - D
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Stylish Modern Kitchen
- Gas Combination Central Heating
- Cowbridge School Catchment

£255,000

Wolffe Close, Cowbridge



- Semi- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two/Three Living Rooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Delightful Gardens backing onto Open Space
- Walking Distance of Excellent Town Centre Facilities
- EPC Rating - D
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Double Glazed

£325,000

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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

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 • Level access shower
 • Community Alarm
 • Water Meter
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H4U reference 246044
 Pref to apps with a medical priority
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 • Ramped access to front
 • Stairlift
 • Level access shower
 Rent £117.61 per week inc water

GADLYS ROAD EAST, BARRY



H4U reference 209955
 • Three bed house
 Rent £114.21 per week inc water

MANORBIE COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 215461
 55+ Preference to applicants with a medical priority
 • One bed bungalow
 • Level access shower
 • Community Alarm
 Rent £109.05 per week inc water/alarm

ST GOVANS CLOSE, BARRY (NO PETS)



H4U reference 225117
 55+
 • One bed flat
 • First Floor
 • Community Alarm
 Rent £97.77 per week inc water/alarm

ST PAULS AVENUE, PENARTH (NO PETS)



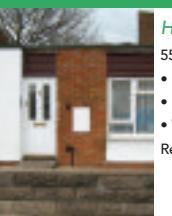
H4U reference 245961
 • Three bed maisonette
 • First Floor
 Rent £1078.81 per week inc water

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH (NO PETS)



H4U reference 243365
 60+
 • One bed flat
 • First floor (no lift)
 • Warden/Alarm
 Rent £101.14 per week inc water/warden

SKOMER ROAD, BARRY



H4U reference 223626
 55+
 • One Bed Bungalow
 • Level Access Shower
 • Water Meter
 Rent £108.88 per week

PETERSWELL ROAD, BARRY (NO PETS)



H4U reference 220698
 60+ Preference to applicants with a medical priority
 • One bed flat
 • Ground floor
 • Wet room
 • Warden/Alarm
 Rent £116.10 per week inc water/warden

CORINTHIAN CLOSE, LLANDOUGH



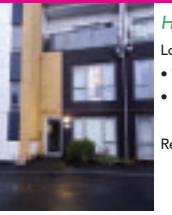
H4U reference 178091
 • Two bed flat
 • First floor
 Rent £107.00 per week

GWERN CLOSE, WENVOE



H4U reference 178015
 Local lettings policy
 • One bed flat
 • Ground Floor
 Rent £92.87 per week

CWRT DOCHDWY, LLANDOUGH



H4U reference 178261
 Local lettings policy
 • Two bed flat
 • Ground Floor
 Rent £103.38 per week

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY (NO PETS)



H4U reference 1031603
 55+ Pref to apps with a medical priority
 • Bedsit
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 • Independent Living Officer
 • Parking/Communal Laundry
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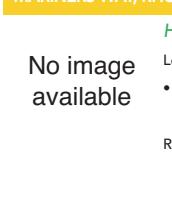
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To apply call the hotline on (01446) 709433 / (01446) 709476, email us at housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to: Housing Strategy Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

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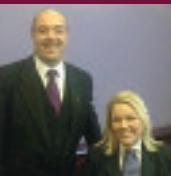


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Family Notices

PRICE

Maureen (née O'Toole)

Peacefully at home in St Athan on 3rd December, aged 76. Devoted wife of the late Tony. Cherished mum of Simon, Julie and Helen and much loved mother-in-law of Mark, Adrian and Djemilla. Adored nan of Liam, Anna, Ashley, Jamie, Holly, Abbie and Ellie. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wednesday, 12th December, service and interment 12 noon at St Athan Parish Church. Flowers to funeral home.

DRINKWATER

Margaret Jean (Jean)

Peacefully after a long illness bravely borne on 27th November. Loving wife of the late Trevor, much loved mother, nan, great nan and a loving sister.

Jean will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St Athan's Parish Church, St Athan on Friday, 14th December at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coyauchurch Crematorium. Flowers may be sent to JR & MF David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

SEAL

Fred

Peacefully on 24th November 2018, aged 95 years and four days, loving husband of the late Jean, wonderful father to Belinda, cherished grandfather to Elizabeth and David.

Fred will be sadly missed by his son-in-law Richard, family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 12th December at 11 am, followed by committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations in memory of Fred can be made directly to The British Heart Foundation, 138 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HH.

FARMER

Eric John

Suddenly but peacefully on 27th November at the University Hospital of Wales. Eric of Dyfan Road, Barry, dearly beloved husband of the late Kath, much loved dad of Karen, Ian, Andrew, Lynda and Maria. Loving father-in-law of David, David and Maria. Much loved grampy to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Eric will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until a celebration of his life at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Thursday, 13th December at 2pm.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support the Welsh Kidney Research in memory of Eric. Dress code optional. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Anthony Thomas. Further enquiries telephone 01446 407962.

SHENTON

Lilian (Hopkins)

Formerly of Higher End, St Athan 1931-2018

Died peacefully at Woodfield Nursing Home, Narberth on Saturday, 1st December 2018.

Cremation at Parc Glyn Crematorium at Narberth on Wednesday, 12th December 2018 at 1.45pm. Family flowers only.

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DANIELS

Gwyneth Mary

Peacefully on 30th November 2018 at Llandough Hospital, Gwyneth, aged 89 years. Dearly loved sister of Dorothy and Howard, much loved aunt to all her nieces and nephews.

Gwyneth will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at St David's Methodist Church on Friday, 14th December at 12 noon, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations, if so desired, for Asthma UK.

ASHILL

David Thomas

It is with great sadness we announce that Dave, aged 56 years, passed away on 30th November 2018. Dave was a much loved husband, father, grandfather and brother. Originally from Barry, Dave has lived in Australia for the last 10 years.

Dave will be immensely missed by all those who knew and loved him.

ORPIN

Susan May (Sue)

It is with great sadness that the family wish to announce the passing of Sue on 26th November. Much loved and cherished mum and nan.

Sue will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until a celebration of her life at Cadoxton Methodist Church, Barry on Thursday, 13th December at 10:45am followed by a private family committal service.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Help The Heroes in memory of Sue.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay J Ellis. Further enquiries telephone 01446 407962.

NEWHOOK

Dorothy Beryl

Passed away at Springbank Nursing Home on 28th November 2018, aged 97 years. Widow of the late Herbert (Bert) Newhook.

She will be very sadly missed by her sons, Kevin and John and their families.

The funeral service will take place at 10.30am on Friday, 21st December at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Barry, followed by burial at Barry Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff at Springbank for their care of her during her stay with them.

LEWIS

David Paul

Peacefully on Thursday, 29th November 2018, David, formerly of Penylan Farm, St Bride's Major. Dearest husband of Gwyneth, much loved dad of Robert (Bob), Huw, Sally and Jennifer, loved and respected father-in-law of Mary and Allan. Devoted grampa and great grampa and a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

Funeral Thursday, 13th December 2018. Friends please meet for Service at St. Bridget's Church, St. Bride's Major at 2pm, followed by interment in the Churchyard. The retiring collection will be donated to Heron Heroes and Meningitis Research. Enquiries to Gareth Watts, Owen E. Jones & Co. Ltd. Maesteg. Tel. 01656 733167.

CRAIG

John

Peacefully at home on 28th November 2018, aged 93. Beloved husband of the late Thelma, loving father to Rosemary, Yvonne (Eve), Angela and John. Cherished gramps and great gramps.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Monday, 10th December, service 1.30pm at St Iltyd's Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation 2.45pm at Coyauchurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Flowers, if desired, to be delivered to the funeral home on the morning of the funeral. Donations to Alzheimer's Society may be given to the funeral director.

The GEM
01446 774484

SHORT

Eric

The family of Eric would like to thank all who attended Eric's funeral, also for the many cards and flowers. Thanks to the Reverend Phil Denyer for the service and his kind words

Also, many thanks to Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services for their kindness and compassion at this very sad time.

BEVAN-MORGAN

Pat

Suddenly but peacefully, Pat, loving wife of the late Cyril. A much loved aunty.

Pat will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coyauchurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 12th December at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be given to a charity of your choice.

Birthdays

Happy 16th Birthday to our Princess Lauren Lou
Hope you have an amazing day!
Lots of Love Mum, Dad and your brothers xxx

Congratulations on your 21st Birthday JACK GILL
on 6th December
Love from Nan and Herbie xxx

Happy Birthday Lottie Rae Vincent
on 10th December
With all my love Nannie xxx

Happy 13th Birthday Son Mckenzie Brown
on 5th December
Hope you have a nice day!
Love loads Mum, Dad & Jermaine xxx

Thank You

FRED AUSTIN

would like to thank his wonderful family for the cards and presents received and for coming to his party. Also, a big thank you to his great granddaughter Rhian for the entertainment.

God Bless you all and I love you all
Grampy Fred xxx

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andy@howemotors.co.uk

A hard-fought victory for Dinas Powys RFC in the gloom of Treorchy

ON a day when the rain defied gravity and fell horizontally and the cloud hung around the mountain tops, it produced a gloom that ensured that the Rhondda was grey.

The sound of the studs in the rugby boots of the players as they proceeded to the pitch was reminiscent of bygone days.

Treorchy were on a fine winning run, unbeaten since September 15 and it took a resolute defensive performance from Dinas Powys RFC to gain a hard-won 17-11 victory against a well-drilled and energetic team.

The Villagers took the lead within the first five minutes following fine interplay between centres Sonny Driscoll and Adam Williams that saw the latter over for the first try of the contest.

The home side responded 10 minutes later with a try, following a rolling maul from an attacking lineout that saw several of their threequarters assist in driving the maul over the tryline.

The Villagers replied quickly with their second try, second row

Ryan Hall made a powerful drive towards halfway, the resulting ruck ball was won and fly half Ben White opted to kick the ball down the middle of the pitch.

The ball was gathered by the Treorchy full back but centre Adam Williams caught the home player and dragged him over the home tryline to gain the visitors a five-metre scrum.

The resulting scrum saw a powerful drive from the Villagers' pack and scrum half Tom Davies fed right wing Jim Wiltshire, who had ventured off his wing on a diagonal run, to score the try in the shadow of the posts. White added the conversion and the score progressed to 5-12.

The home side responded by setting up camp in the Villagers' half and their defence was tested to the limit.

Heroic tackling by the back row of Corey Imperato and the brothers Dunleavy, Lewis and Josh, withstood 10 minutes of intense pressure.

It was against the run of play that the Villagers scored their third and final try of the afternoon, a dropped pass among the Treorchy.

HJ

Robbie's run of form continues



Dai Llewellyn, Keith James, winner Robbie Llewellyn, sponsor Andrew Thomas, Brian Jones and Robert Calcaterra.

Tondu Titans in a tight spot – can you help?

TONDU Titans are currently looking for a match day physiotherapist for their dedicated ladies team – and urgently need someone for a development game this weekend as their physio is unavailable.

The team would welcome someone in university, college or someone who has previous experience. All travel costs will be provided.

If anyone can help, please contact the team through Facebook.

R O B B I E LLEWELLYN, the man with the mower from Penlyne, featured in last week's GEM for his success in winning the Nipper Jewell Knock competition organised by the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, continued his winning streak when finishing ahead of the field at last week's monthly meeting of the society.

Playing at The Glamorganshire Golf Club in Penarth, and despite failing to score on three holes, Robbie still managed to finish with 34 stableford points, just one more than Brian Jones, who also finished runner-up to Robbie in the knockout final mentioned earlier.

Robbie's brother Dai also had a good round, finishing in third place with 32 points just ahead of society president Geraint Davies, who also

scored 32 points. Brian Lakin finished in fifth place with 31 points.

The visitors' section was won by Rob Calcaterra who finished with the highest score of the day when accumulating 37 points. Jon Wall with 33 points finished runner-up.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan (Cowbridge) sponsored par-3 holes were Glyn Watts-Jones (2), Dai Llewellyn, Brian Jones and Jon Wall.

Generous sponsor Andrew Thomas of HRT of Cowbridge hit the longest drive down the selected hole to win the Llanerch vineyard and restaurant sponsored prize and also returned home with a voucher from Picketston Poultry when correctly guessing 19 balls would fail to return home. This raised £54 for the Wish Upon a Star charity.

Members are now looking forward to the annual Christmas meeting, scheduled for Thursday, December 13 at St Athan Golf Club.

T.McC



Imps on target with new sponsors

CADOXTON Imps under-10s have secured new sponsorship from Quasar Barry Island.

Owner Mark Vockins has agreed to sponsor the team, and as well as sponsorship he also invited the whole of Cadoxton Imps minis to a free game of Quasar at Barry Island. In addition, the whole mini section were presented with a Quasar hoodie.

The club has personally thanked Mr Vockins for his support and generosity, and after

the celebrations at Quasar the under-7s and under-8s teams next season.

The club's kit was supplied by

Classic Sportswear, and they are also producing winter jackets for our new teams.

Cadoxton Imps do not hold trials of any sort - if you want to play football you just turn up. Our ethos is play to have fun, it doesn't matter if you win or lose, as long as you've enjoyed yourself and you walk off the pitch with a smile on your face.

SE

Club's thanks to local company

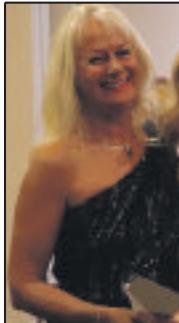


Holton Road AFC under-7s would like to thank Perfect Prints for kindly sponsoring them and providing their kits.

Michael Cundliffe, vice chairman of Holton Road AFC, said "Without companies such as Perfect Prints, grassroots football clubs would struggle to provide the essentials to their young players." If you would like to get involved in the club, please contact holtonroadfc@gmail.com or find us on social media.

MC

Awards are handed out at Brynhill presentation evening



Sue Holland was named Lady Golfer of the Year.



Ruth O'Carroll.



Ladies' captain Sam Pascoe with Lisa Taylor.

Helena Coombes - this was one of many prizes for Lisa this year.

The Brynhill Ladies' Champion was Ruth O'Carroll and runner-up Sam Pascoe. Ruth is a County League player and Brynhill is very proud of her achievements.

The Lady Golfer of the Year was Sue Holland - this trophy is presented to the most consistent player of the year.

All the winners and runners-up were warmly applauded by all the members present, well done to everyone.

JK

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GLITTERING silverware and crystal were put on display for the annual Brynhill Golf Club presentation evening.

Ladies and gentlemen arrived to receive their prizes and support all the winners and runners-up. The Brynhill golfing members had played competitions all year trying to win a trophy and receive it on this special night.

The ladies' captain Sam Pascoe was delighted to present all the winners and runners-up with their trophies.

The Diack winner was Lisa Taylor and runner-up

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15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather

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16 66 AUDI A4 ALLROAD 3.0 TDI Quattro Sport Estate S-Tronic, Audi warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, privacy glass, 21k, white, full leather

£26995



14 14 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI S-Line Quattro 5dr, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, dab, 38k, black, half-leather

£15995



17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line S 5dr Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 13k, red, full leather

£22995



16 66 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 3dr, Audi warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, xenons, 23k, white, half-leather

£23995



12 62 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, alloys, usb, 24k, blue

£4995



15 15 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Limited Edition 3dr, 17"alloys, air-con, aux, 31k, red

£5995



15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-3 5dr 4WD, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, reverse camera, 31k, black, full leather

£14295



16 16 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty June 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 24k, met white

£19995



16 66 FIAT 500 1.2 POP 3dr Dualogic automatic, Fiat warranty Nov 2019, USB, 10k, pink

£7995



16 16 VW PASSAT ALLTRACK 2.0 TDI 190 4Motion Estate DSG, VW warranty July 2019, sat nav, pdc, privacy glass, 16k, grey

£18995



15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 SD V6 SE Tech 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 30k, silver, full leather

£29995



16 16 JEEP CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Summit 5dr 4x4 Automatic, Jeep warranty April 2019, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 20"alloys, met red, full leather

£24995

16 66 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Black Edition 5dr Automatic, Audi warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 21"alloys, 23k, bose, white, full leather

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£20495

15 15 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 3dr S-Tronic, sat nav, pdc, Bluetooth, heated seats, red, full leather

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£28995

15 15 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, heated seats, 33k, grey, half-leather

.....

£20995

15 15 AUDI Q5 2.0 TDI 190 Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr S-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, heated seats, sat nav, 18k, black, full leather

.....

£24995

17 67 BMW 225 XE PHEV Sport Active Tourer 5dr 4WD Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 4k, black

.....

£20995

16 66 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2019, M sport + pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, 16k, blue, full leather

.....

£23995

16 66 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic 4WD, BMW warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, 19"Alloys, reverse camera, heated seats, 18k, red

.....

£24995

15 64 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, pro sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, full leather, 26k, met black

.....

£19995

16 16 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, 19"alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather

.....

£21995

16 16 BMW X3 30D M Sport 5dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2019, 19"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, 14k, grey

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£24995

15 15 BMW X4 D XDrive XLine 4dr Automatic, sat nav, pdc, 26k, red, full leather

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£24995

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRD Premium 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, privacy glass, 18k, black, full leather

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£20995

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty July 2021, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 21k, beige with full leather

.....

£21995

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0 D V6 S AWD 5dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black, full leather

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£40995

15 65 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet II 200 Limited 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 38k, white, full leather

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£16995

16 16 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 M-Jet II Longitude 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, pan roof, 17"alloys, blue, 22k

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£13995

18 68 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI GT-Line S 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Kia warranty Sept 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, only 527 miles, grey, full leather

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£34995

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDI GT-Line AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Aug 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, full leather, choice auto or manual

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16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 24k, black, full leather

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16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, 23k, met red, full leather

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16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line 5dr 4WD, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, heated seats, 8k, white with full leather

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£18495

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 5dr Automatic 4WD, Kia warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 24k, silver

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£17495

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr AWd Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 24k, white, full leather

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£21495

15 15 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 15k, black, full leather

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£21495

15 15 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Aug 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, full leather, choice auto or manual

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£17295

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 24k, silver, full leather

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£18895

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 15k, black, full leather

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£19495

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 15k, black, full leather

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16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 15k, black, full leather

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16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 15k, black, full leather

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16 MERCEDES CLA180 Sport Auto, in white, 27,000 miles, 1 owner, under Mercedes warranty £18,495

07 JAGUAR XK 4.2 Auto In met blue with ivory leather and navy hood, fantastic value at £13,495

10 RANGE ROVER 3-6 TDV8 Vogue Auto Galway green/black leather, Sat Nav **Reduced to £10,495**

13 AUDI A1 S-Line 1.4 TFSI 5dr Automatic In red, 73,000 miles, very nice example £9,995

14 NISSAN Juke 1.6 N-TEC In met red, 28,000 miles, very nice example with sat-nav £9,695

13 MINI Cooper S 'Bayswater Edition' In black with black leather, 52,000 miles, pan roof, etc £9,495

15 HYUNDAI i10 SE 1.2 5dr, in white, 24,000 miles, one owner £8,995

15 VW Polo 1.4TDI SE 5-Dr In met-red, 25,000 miles, low running costs £8,995

12 FORD GRAND C-MAX 2.0 TDCi Titanium, Auto, Met terrian with leather, 46,000 miles, 7 seater with sat nav, pan roof etc £8,995

65 SKODA Fabia 1.0 MPI SE 5dr In black, 22,000 miles, 1 owner £7,995

61 HYUNDAI IX35 Style 2WD 1.7 CRDI In silver, 52,000 miles, two owners **Reduced to £7,995**

14 HONDA Civic 1.6 Diesel, SE+, 5-Dr In silver 68,000 miles, free road tax £7,995

13 RENAULT Clio 2.0 Renault Sport 3-Dr In black, 38,000 mile hot hatch **Reduced to £7,995**

12 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 Accenta In silver, 65,000 miles, 2 owners £7,695

64 MINI Cooper 1.5 Diesel In met blue/white roof, 81,000 miles, superb looking car at £7,495

11 VW Golf 1.6TDI Match 5-Dr In met-red, 42,000 mile, very desirable at £7,495

63 VAUXHALL Astra 2.0 CDTI SRI 5-Dr In ice blue, 45,000 mile diesel hatch £6,995

63 NISSAN Juke 1.5 DCi Acenta Met-burgundy, 71,000 mile diesel, great value at £6,995

58 FORD Focus 2.5 ST2 3-Dr In white, 78,000 mile hot hatch, great example at £6,995

60 MINI Cooper 1.6D Convertible in black with leather trim, 52,000 miles, Chilli pack etc £6,995

13 FORD C-Max Zetec 1.0 Turbo In silver, 69,000 miles, low running costs **Reduced by £500 to £6,995**

12 AUDI A3 SE 3-Dr 1.6 TDI In silver, 53,000 miles, £20 road tax **Reduced by £1,000 to £6,995**

08 Audi A3, 2.0+ tdi sport convertible, In red, 55,000 miles, superb example £6,995

65 TOYOTA Yaris VVT-i Sport 5dr, in red, 53,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax £6,995

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13 SKODA Rapid 1.2 TSI Elegance In met grey, 51,000 miles, ideal family hatch £6,295

13 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr In silver, 49,000 miles, free road tax £6,295

63 KIA Rio 2 1.2 3-Dr In silver, only 11,000 miles from new

..... **Reduced by £1,000 to £5,995**

61 MINI One 1.6 in red, 34,000 miles, very nice example at **Reduced by £800 to £5,995**

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62 TOYOTA Yaris TR 1.4 D-4D 3-Dr In black, 33,000 mile diesel with reversing camera £5,995

60 MERCEDES B160 Blue Efficiency Sport In black, 64,000 miles, nice example £5,995

14 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met-black, 43,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc £5,995

12 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr, in white, 65,000 miles, parking sensors etc £5,995

08 NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0D Aventura In met blue, 95,000 miles, sat nav, pan-roof etc £5,995

16 MG3 VTI-Tech Style In red with white roof, 33,000 miles, fantastic value at £5,995

64 FIAT 500S In met grey, 48,000 miles, very nice example £5,695

63 FIAT 500S 1.2 in midnight indigo, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax, Facelift Model .. **Reduced by £700 to £5,295**

61 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.7 Diesel CDTI SRI 5-Dr In red, 55,000 miles, **Reduced by £500 to £4,995**

12 HYUNDAI i20 Active 1.2 5 door, In silver, 56,000 miles, low insurance £4,995

10 MINI Cooper S In electric blue with white roof etc, high spec hot hatch £4,995

62 FIAT Punto 1.4 M-Air Lounge In met blue, 48,000 miles, pan-roof **Reduced to £4,695**

08 BMW 320i SE 4dr In silver, 54,000 miles, 2 owners, very nice example £4,695

63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Ecoflex S 3-Dr In white, 26,000 miles, £30 road tax £4,495

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62 HYUNDAI i10 Active 1.2 In white, 34,000 miles, £20 road tax £4,495

12 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 In silver, 22,000 miles, 2 owners, a/c, etc £4,495

10 HONDA Civic 1.8 Si 5-Dr In red, 91,000 miles, very nice throughout **Reduced to £4,495**

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61 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 Exclusive In red, 59,000 miles, 2 owners £3,995

60 MINI Cooper 1.6 Diesel In black, fantastic mpg & free road tax **Reduced to £3,995**

59 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5-Dr In met-blue, 70,000 miles with a/c **Reduced to £3,995**

59 MAZDA 3 1.6 S 5dr, in electric blue, 67,000 miles, ideal family car £3,995

13 SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 SZ Free, 5-Dr, In cherry pink, 37,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax £3,995

12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Active 3dr In white, 52,000 miles, 2 owners with A/C/ £3,995

12 KIA Picanto 1.0 3-Dr In black, 47,000 miles, free road tax, low insurance £3,995

11 FORD Ka 1.2 Edge In black, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax £3,995

60 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2, 5-Dr In black, 45,000 miles, low insurance and road tax £3,495

58 TOYOTA Auris 1.6 TR 5-Dr In magnetic grey, 70,089 miles, 1 owner £3,495

10 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Exclusive 5-Dr In met grey, 81,000 miles **Reduced by £500 to £3,495**

08 FORD C-Max 1.8 Zetec metallic red, 52,000 miles, 1 owner **Reduced by £700 to £2,999**

08 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Active 3dr In white, 52,000 miles, 2 owners with A/C/ £2,995

58 FORD Focus 2.5 ST2 3-Dr In white, 78,000 mile hot hatch, great example £2,995

60 VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2S 5-Dr, In electric blue, 76,000 miles, low insurance £2,995



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In white, 78,000 mile hot hatch,
great example
£6,995

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RAC

Derby encounter absorbing as Phoenix just edged out



ABOVE LEFT: Eleri Harris makes a tackle, while ABOVE RIGHT: Stephanie Edmunds and Kelsea Purchall make a break for the Phoenix. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.



THE eagerly-awaited National Premiership and local derby match between Pencoed Phoenix and Pontyclun Ladies did not disappoint, with both sides doing their utmost in the quest for victory and serving up an absorbing contest in the process.

Pontyclun opened on the attack, threatening within the home 22 but were met with a solid home defence, both Emily Hughes and Natalie O'Shea showing no half measures in the contact area.

Playing into the stiff breeze, Phoenix opened the scoring after 15 minutes, outside half Leanne Burnell racing outside several Pontyclun players to find O'Shea wide out on the left, and the ubiquitous O'Shea needed no second invitation to storm over from 35 metres out.

The opening quarter had seen the home scrum dominant with Lucy Cahil, hooker Jody Jordan and Eleri Harries-Thomas making their presence felt.

The visitors were next on the scoreboard however, a swift counter-attack from inside their own half saw Brogan Jones

race over before adding the conversion. Pontyclun soon got a second try, Charlotte Mundy going over, and the visitors led 5-12, somewhat against the run of play at this juncture.

Phoenix were not deterred, with their forwards going well and from a quick tap penalty, several pack members handled well before full back/centre Kelsey Purchall burst onto the ball and her direct running saw her score a fine try from some 22 metres. Unfortunately for the home side, a defensive lapse at the restart saw Meg Oatin capitalise on for once a hesitant home defence to score what was to some extent a fortuitous third try, Jones adding the extras, and Pontyclun led 10-19 at the interval.

It was Phoenix who opened the second half scoring. Once again, Burnell and O'Shea combining before play swept to the visitors try line, Zoe Reeses going close before the supporting Stephanie Edmunds and Kelsea Purchall got the touchdown, Burnell converting.

The experienced Premiership visitors then got their bonus point try with their first second half visit to the home 22 to lead 17-12.



The under-7s in action against Pyle.

Bridgend Athletic RFC mini and junior results

THE under-7s took the short trip to Pyle RFC. With only one pitch set up and Pyle only wanting to play one game, there wasn't much game time for the Athletic's large squad.

Great evasive rugby was shown by the young Athletic players scoring at will. Top taggers were Callum Brown and Jesse Sargent, along with good performances from Rohan Davies and Matthew Hallez. This week the under-7s host Aberavon Quins and Pyle.

THANKS to the 3G pitch in Llanwit Fardre, the under-8s match could be played despite the heavy rain.

The tagging by the Ath was the difference on the day as they stopped the Pontyclun boys in their tracks and in attack scored some lovely well-worked tries, as they won all three matches. The next match is at home against Pyle and Aberavon Quins.

THE under-14s hosted Llangennech on a gloomy drizzly day.

Both sides had large squads and Llangennech took the game to the Athletic from the start, but the home side's tackling was resolute. Athletic opened the scoring as Shea cruised onto a well-timed pass from Gabe, which was converted, for a 7-0 lead.

The Athlete spent more time defending but when the ball was turned over, Jack made a smart break and Shea was up in support to score his second try to make it 14-0.

The Athletic were doing well, trying to play rugby despite poor conditions and when the ball popped loose in the midfield, first Fynn and then Danny worked the ball to Jack, who was put clear under the posts to stretch the lead to 21-0.

From the restart, the Athletic forwards, who were going well, won possession and Shea stood up the defence to find Sam available on the left to score a fourth converted try, and take the score to 28-0.

Another training ground move saw a lineout cleared quickly and moved wide for Jack to receive the ball down the right-hand side with Josh in support to score a good try and make the score 33-0.

Josh was soon in action again as he scored his second try in as many minutes to give the Athletic a 38-0

half-time lead.

Llangennech weren't making it easy for the Ath, but from a ruck, the ball squirmed out for McKenzie to pounce, setting up a 40 metre kick and chase for the first score of the second half to increase the lead to 43-0.

Shea's customary hat trick came next to bring up the Athletic's half century of points and the final try was McKenzie's second to complete the scoring at 55-0.

The scoreline does not reflect the performance of Llangennech. The Athletic defence was excellent throughout with highly committed tackling necessary to halt the large Llangennech pack and runners. The support work in defence and attack was excellent and set plays worked to perfection.

THE under-15s injury list just keeps growing – with nine boys out, the team travelled down to Llangennech with only 17 players.

Some of the boys played in unfamiliar positions and from the off it was clear to see that Llangennech were going to use their big physical pack.

However, it was a different matter at the scrum and lineout with the Ath taking some of their opposition ball. Unfortunately, Llangennech scored two well-worked tries with the Ath defence allowing them far too much time to run without closing them down.

With a stern chat at half-time, the Ath started to put phases of play together and a bit of magic running by Lochie Baron, playing in the unfamiliar role of centre, went through a gap to race clear for a try.

The second Ath try came within minutes with a line break from number 8 Harper Chamberlain, who offloaded to outside half Evan Beach to finish the move off. Evan converted both tries.

The Ath were in control at this point and 14-10 up. With a few decisions going against them and some very sloppy defending Llangennech scored another two tries to run out 20-14 winners.

The Ath can be pleased with their effort in difficult circumstances and hope the squad injuries soon heal to restore the team to a near full compliment.

AB

Porthcawl Bridge Club

THE club recently held a Simultaneous Pairs heat, raising £200 for Children In Need.

Pairs compete in the club, but then the results are also scored centrally along with other British club's results to give a national ranking.

Terry and Roger won in the club, but were overtaken nationally by Gary and Tony.

Latest results: November 10: First – Hazel and Colin Heard; second – Roger Plant and Betty Longley. November 15: Children In Need Simultaneous Pairs: Club first – Roger Plant and Terry Dolan; second – Tony Haworth and Gary Williams.

November 17: First – Trish

Saunders and Janet Richards; second (equal) – Tony Haworth and John Beard; Emer Disley and Debbie Lea.

November 22: First – Trish Saunders and Connie Dick; second – David Rance and Alwyn Hill. November 24: First – Pat Haworth and Terry Dolan; second – Teresa Griffiths and Chris Rawlings. November 29: First – Pat Roper and John Cobby; second – Rob Charlesworth and John Beard.

The club meets twice a week at the Awel-y-Mor centre, Thursdays 6.45pm-9.45pm, and Saturdays 3.15pm-6.15pm, visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary, Trish, on 01656 785794.

TH

THE under-9s faced Cwmavon. They were noticeably quick in defence and managed to turn the ball over with regular pressure, but good forward running and timely offloads saw the Sports win the first game four tries to nil. All credit to Cwmavon as they fought back in the second game, winning two tries to one.

The following players deserve recognition for their efforts – Dan Flower (one try), Dan Perriman (two tries), Thomas Roberts (one try), Louis Payne (one try), while Ciaran Murphy was tackler of the week and Kayden Jones earned the star player trophy.

A special mention is made of team member Evelyn Murray on her return as she made an immediate impact.

The under-10s entertained Baglan RFC.

It was a physical game with plenty of

hard tackles from both sides and the Sports were unlucky not to have added to their two early tries, scored by Noah Roberts.

Baglan hit back with six tries for a final 2-6 scoreline. The Sports' players never gave up and played hard until the final whistle. The team player award went to Stan McAllister.

The under-11s played against a developing and spirited Pyle team who played rugby to the bitter end.

The Sports adapted and played to the conditions well, and tries were shared throughout the team – Charlie Morris, Gabriel Burroughs, Joe Perriman, Joe Major, Dan May (2), Charlie Paget, Alfie Lewis, Finley Goodwin (2), Chloe Roblin, Dylan Evans, Madison Rees and Matthew Oglesbee.

Henry Dong was always on players' shoulders in support, while Charlie Morris was the star player of the week. The final score was 70-15.

The under-12s emerged victorious from a very physical game against Ebbw Vale, winning 21-7.

The pack put in a big effort with forwards Luke Mumford and Deacon Keseru putting in some big carries while Sam Gardner was always nuisance at the rucks.

The Sports finally broke a tight game with some good forward phases before the ball was worked wide to Callum Childs to score in the corner. Jack Sperduty converted.

Gruff Roberts crashed over for the second try and the final score of the first half; again Jack Sperduty added the conversion.

Then came the best score of the game as Ben King finished off a flowing team move to race in under the posts for the final try and Cian John added his fourth conversion of the game for the Sports to register the win.

The under-15s have been hit by injuries and enjoyed a week off for the players to recuperate, while the under-16s put in a spirited fight against a strong Vardre side at home.

Both sides have a large squad of players so decided to play an extra short game which proved to be a close affair.

Once again, the Sports dominated both

SP



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Celtic pushed for victory by Tondu

MAESTEG Celtic welcomed local rivals Tondu to Garth Park for a West Central Division One fixture.

Conditions were not good as a result of the heavy rain during the previous week, but with two games already postponed during November, coach Kieran Power and his crew worked hard to make the pitch playable.

The first half was a torrid affair with both defences not giving a yard to their opponents.

Celtic front row Ryan Shearan, Morgan Reeves and Mathew Phillips were solid in the scrums and powerful in the rucks.

Second rows Robert Golden and Alex Jones did well against tall opponents in the lineouts and carried the ball well in the loose.

The back row of flankers Lee Arthur, Nathan Adams and number eight and captain Oliver Petty were immense in defence. Petty carried the ball from the back of the scrum with strength and determination.

Celtic half-backs Cameron Jones and Harrison Evans linked well and moved the ball wide whenever possible.

Centres Kristian Jenkins and Matthew Harris defended stoically



Ryan Shearan was the Maesteg Celtic man of the match.

and took the ball at their but a charge down kick opposite numbers took them back and they bravely conceded a penalty on half-time.

The back three of Ryan Lovatt, Geraint Roberts and James Dixon took every opportunity to counter attack in the difficult conditions.

Tondu opened the scoring when their outside half, Mathew Murphy, kicked an equalising penalty.

Celtic responded with repeated attacks inside the visitors' 22 before being rewarded with a penalty in front of the half-time line.

Celtic continued to attack with energy but the Tondu defence remained steadfast. Two further penalties by Harris took Celtic ahead and although Tondu tried hard they were unable to close the gap and Celtic's home record for the season remains intact.

At the end of the half Tondu camped in the Celtic 22 but were unable to break the defence.

The Celtic man of the match was prop Ryan Sheran. KS

IT was clear that Tondu youth wanted this game a lot more than Bridgend Athletic youth.

There were big tackles straight from the off, but the adrenaline got the better of Tondu who gave away numerous penalties within the first 10 minutes, allowing Athletic to get three points on the scoreboard.

Tondu came back twice as hard and it was Mason Hughes, a former Bridgend Athletic player, who scored a try in a game that meant so much to him. Mason played out of his skin and was unstoppable the whole game.

The try was converted again by Jacob Thomas to make it 14-6 to Tondu.

The Athletic were awarded another penalty which kept them in contention for the game at 14-9, but the second half saw no points for either team.

The Athletic came close on a few occasions but Tondu's defence was unbreakable and the Wheelers were

determined not to let the local rivals score against them.

Mike Sully

Athletic to have another shot at goal, which was successful, but yet again, Tondu were determined to stretch the scoreline and it was Kyan Lloyd who scored the next try, another player who had a great game.

The try was converted again by Jacob Thomas to make it 14-6 to Tondu.

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The Athletic came close on a few occasions but Tondu's defence was unbreakable and the Wheelers were

determined not to let the local rivals score against them.



Testyn Davies makes a break for Tondu youth. PICTURE BY JAMES KAYE.

Tondu youth get the win over rivals in absorbing encounter

TONDU youth won a hard-fought local Ospreys East Division derby against Bridgend Athletic youth by 14 points to 9.

Tondu had a more seasoned pack against a mainly first year Athletic outfit, while the Athletic has more experience in the backs.

Tondu played mainly to their forward strengths and were rewarded with two close range tries despite the younger Athletic side fronting up on the day, while the Athletic

frustrated by too often cutting back inside where Tondu's formidable back row could snuff out the danger.

The Athletic made a lively start with an over eager Tondu side conceding early penalties. The Athletic drove a driving maul from a line out deep

into the Tondu 22.

Flanker Dan Osarigie broke clear and scrum half Josh Tidy released outside half Cameron Lewis. Tondu

recognising the potency of Athletic centres Tom Jenkins and John Evans; a session starting at 1pm on slightly advanced techniques of bidding and play.

This week Steve Burgoyne will present a seminar on signals and discards.

A new course of bridge lessons have started on Monday afternoons at Nolton Church Hall from 3:30pm to 5:30pm and its not too late to join the course.

For more information, please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or email Steve at steve@steveburgoyne. plus.com.

Excellent defensive efforts from lock

Morgan Bennett and the front row of Brandyn Fooks, Jack Obbord and Ellis Bull halted the initial surges.

Tondu's persistence eventually paid off when flanker Kyan Lloyd breached the green and gold defence.

Thoma's conversion

several thrusts at the Athletic line culminating in flanker Mason Hughes twisting his way over wide out. Outside half Jacob Thomas added the extras to give the home side a 7-3 lead.

The Athletic struck straight back. Tondu were penalised allowing the Athletic to kick to touch.

Top of the lineout ball from Jac Basset saw half backs Tidy and Lewis feed centre Tom Davies in midfield.

Davies was tackled but Tondu were guilty of going over the top at the ruck. Hallet's penalty reduced his side's deficit to 7-6.

The Athletic then lost outside half Cameron Lewis to a blood injury forcing a reshuffle with full back Hallet moving to the pivot role. Lewis did return, but moved to full back.

Tondu managed to cross the Athletic line but an excellent joint effort by Josh Tidy and Tom Davies prevented the ball being grounded.

However, from the five-metre scrum the Tondu No 8 picked up and initiated a series of thrusts at the Athletic line.

Excellent defensive efforts from lock

Morgan Bennett and the front row of Brandyn Fooks, Jack Obbord and Ellis Bull halted the initial surges.

Tondu's persistence eventually paid off when flanker Kyan Lloyd breached the green and gold defence.

Thoma's conversion



ABOVE LEFT: Will Barracough makes a break, while ABOVE RIGHT: Levi Hallett (with the ball) looks for an opening. ALL PICTURES BY JOHN CANNON.

stretched the lead to 14-6.

The Athletic responded with a third Hallett penalty to give the Water wheelers a 14-9 half-time lead.

The Athletic had the better of the early second half exchanges with wings Owen Thomas and Ethan White showing pacy runs.

A well-organised Tondu defence withstood the early pressure. It was then Tondu's turn to test the Athletics' defensive resolve. A stout defence kept the Athletic line intact.

Centre Will Barracough then showed why he has often been an Athletic match winner. He shook off a series of tacklers on his own 22 line and ran 60 metres into the

Athletic 22.

It looked a certain try but a determined Tondu effort saw their wings come across field to halt the Athletic flyer just short of the line, though conceding a penalty and incurring a yellow card in the effort.

Hallett was unable to add a fourth penalty going wide of the upright.

The Athletic brought on substitutes Corbyn Lee, Josh Llewellyn, Keegan Thomas and Teo Filer and with seven minutes remaining the Athletic opened play 30 metres from the Tondu line.

Centre Tom Davies threw a floated pass from the middle of the field to wing Owen Thomas on the touchline. Thomas sprinted over the try line, but the referee

adjudged the pass was forward.

Both sides were unable to penetrate determined defences in the second period and Tondu's tactics prevailed on the day, running out 14-9 victors.

Athletic coach Paul Obbord was pleased with his side's commitment: "The team all played well despite the final score. Tondu played to their strength through their forwards, our forwards did face up, but we needed to play to our strength, via our backs."

"It's a learning curve, so well done, main thing is to stick together and keep going, it will come. We are very proud of the Ath squad and they should be extremely proud of themselves."

Latest news from the Bridgend Bridge Club

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On Wednesday, November 28: First, Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner; second, Tony Disley and Steve Burgoyne; equal third, Emer Disley and Debbie Lea, and Liam Sheridan and John Beard. The winners on handicap were Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner.

On Thursday, November 29: First, Vida Halford and Emer Disley; second, John Evans and Glyn Williams; third Dave Lea and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were John Evans and Glyn Williams.

All sessions are played in a friendly manner.

GJ

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk